

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**

BUREAU OF PARKS AND LANDS

FISCAL YEAR 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

**MAINE PUBLIC RESERVED, NONRESERVED,
AND SUBMERGED LANDS**

To

the JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
on AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION, AND FORESTRY

March 1, 2023



Rhodora on Bald Mountain – Perkins Twp Lot



Amanda E. Beal
Commissioner

Randy Charette
Deputy Commissioner

Nancy McBrady
Deputy Commissioner

18 Elkins Lane
Augusta, ME 04333

(207) 287-3200
www.maine.gov/dacf

FISCAL YEAR 2022
ANNUAL REPORT
Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
Bureau of Parks and Lands

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	INTRODUCTION.....	1
II.	SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITIES.....	4
III.	LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING.....	5
IV.	NATURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES.....	6
V.	WILDLIFE RESOURCES.....	8
VI.	RECREATION RESOURCES.....	10
VII.	FEES.....	14
VIII.	PUBLIC INFORMATION.....	15
IX.	PARTNERSHIPS.....	16
X.	TIMBER RESOURCES.....	18
XI.	TRANSPORTATION.....	24
XII.	PUBLIC ACCESS.....	26
XIII.	LAND TRANSACTIONS.....	28
XIV.	SUBMERGED LANDS.....	30
XV.	SHORE AND HARBOR MANAGEMENT FUND.....	30
XVI.	COASTAL ISLAND PROGRAM.....	31
XVII.	ADMINISTRATION.....	31
XVIII.	INCOME AND EXPENDITURES ACCOUNTING: FISCAL YEAR 2022....	32
XIX.	FINANCIAL REPORT: FISCAL YEAR 2024.....	37
	APPENDIX A: Map of BPL Property Interests.....	42
	APPENDIX B: Map of Public Lands Management Regions	43
	APPENDIX C: Public Reserved & Nonreserved Land Management Units	44
	APPENDIX D: Status of BPL Management Plans	46
	APPENDIX E: Ecological Reserves Designation History	47

I. INTRODUCTION

The Bureau of Parks and Lands (BPL), within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF), is responsible for the management and administration of Maine's State Parks, Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands, Submerged Lands, Coastal Islands, conservation easement lands, and other lands as provided by law.

This report constitutes required annual reporting pursuant to the following:

- 12 MRSA §1853, 1839, and elsewhere,
- 12 MRSA §1850(1), 1836(1) and elsewhere related to vehicular access to Bureau lands, and
- 12 MRSA §1805 and 1853 related to Ecological Reserves on Bureau lands.

This report provides an overview of the scope of the Bureau's responsibilities and information on the Bureau's management activities during fiscal year 2022 (FY 22). As required, the report includes information on gates and barriers that prevent public vehicle access to Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands (Public Lands), recreation facility fees charged for the use of these lands, and a status report on Ecological Reserves. The report also includes information on timber, recreation, and wildlife management on Public Lands during the fiscal year.

Income and expenditure information is provided for FY 22, and a report is also included for the ongoing FY 23 budget. The Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee has an obligation to report by March 15th to the Appropriations Committee on the Bureau's Public Lands upcoming FY 23 budget. The "Public Lands" division of the Bureau is a dedicated revenue component of the agency, funding almost all of its administrative, planning, management, and operational activities from revenue generated from the land base, with some additional sources of funds provided through various grant programs.

The management of Public Lands is directed by statute. Title 12 MRSA §1833 and §1847 direct the Bureau to manage the Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands (630,860 acres in FY 22)¹ *"under the principles of multiple land use to produce a sustained yield of products and services in accordance with both prudent and fair business practices and the principle of sound planning."*

In addition, management of Public Reserved Lands must *"demonstrate exemplary land management practices, including silvicultural, wildlife and recreation management"* (Title 12 MRSA §1847). Fifteen-year multiple-use plans for the properties direct the Bureau's Public Lands management activities. Benefits from the sound management of these lands include:

- *Production of forest products*
- *Public access to recreational opportunities*
- *Enhancement of wildlife habitat*
- *Protection of unique natural and cultural resources*

The Bureau also has responsibility for managing and reporting to the ACF Committee public trust rights to Submerged Lands and Coastal Islands. When granting leases for the use of Submerged Lands, the Bureau includes conditions to maintain customary and traditional public access, navigation, and commercial marine use. The past 18 months have made it clear that

¹ This figure reflects updated property records and improved GIS data, as well as acquisitions and dispositions that occurred in FY 22.

Maine's people find strength in connection with each other and with nature, and that they realize the incredible value of our Public Lands. Key features of the Bureau's work in the past year include:

Enhancing Recreational Facilities: The Public Lands division partnered with Maine Conservation Corps (MCC) crews in the summer and fall of 2021 to advance trail work, with major improvements across the state at some of the most popular Public Land units. MCC crews completed trail work at 11 Public Lands units, rehabilitating and maintaining about 85 miles of trail, including removing blowdowns and installing bog bridging in wet areas, and constructing over 1.5 miles of new trail. The Bureau worked on campsite upgrades at 10 Public Lands, improving numerous sites with new picnic tables and new or maintained privies. Signage improvements were completed at six Public Lands, including new yardarm signs at entrances, new kiosks, and other information signage at trailheads and other key locations. BPL staff in the Northern Region constructed kiosks, information boards, and picnic tables for use across all three management regions. Special recreation projects included the installation of a new roof on the fire warden's cabin at Deboullie Mountain and the removal of numerous damaged or abandoned canoes from remote pond shorelines at the Cold Stream Forest Public Land.



Expanding Recreation: In recent years, the Bureau has seen growing interest in accommodating new recreational activities, such as glade skiing and backcountry snowmobiling, and expanding existing uses, such as mountain biking. This interest often stems from community efforts to further develop a four-season recreation economy. In 2022, the first phase of a single-track mountain bike trail system was constructed at Little Moose Public Land. The trails were discussed and approved through a public process and are being built and maintained by a local mountain bike group that aims to provide an attraction for the local community and visitors to the area. A similar project is well underway at the Crocker Mountain Unit near Carrabassett Valley. Though mountain bike trails are found on Public Lands across the state, most existing trails are co-located on management roads or associated with trail networks that rely on abutting lands. The Bureau will continue to consider new trail proposals where they are consistent with the management vision for the land, working to balance new or expanded uses with competing uses and demands.

Challenging Times for Timber Management: Maine's Public Reserved lands rely almost entirely on revenue from the sustainable harvest of timber. As a result of universal market disruption caused by the pandemic, the Public Lands budget sustained more than \$3M in losses across FY 20 and FY 21. While timber markets stabilized in FY 22 and some product pricing was exceptionally high due to the housing market, pandemic-related challenges remain a strong factor. Less dependable winter conditions, high fuel costs, labor shortages, and loggers leaving the industry have created challenges for loggers, mills, and timberland managers, and BPL is no exception. The Bureau's cash reserve acts as an important rainy-day fund, and due to strong softwood markets and good harvest conditions in the summer of 2021, the account balance stabilized and rebounded modestly in FY 22. Credit is due to the BPL team of nearly two dozen professional foresters and the hard-working logging community we partner with daily to do our work.

Planning Milestones: In 2022, the Bureau adopted the management plan for the Tumbledown-Mount Blue State Park region, fulfilling its commitment to developing 15-year management plans for each public reserved and nonreserved land unit.² Commissioner Beal signed the plan in early 2022, and this completion marks a major milestone! Since 2007 the Bureau has worked steadily to adopt 12 regional plans that together cover most of the state, plus unit-specific plans for Kennebec Highlands and Pineland Public Lands. Scheduled five-year reviews of these plans have continued apace and provide a good way to adapt and evolve with community input. Several plans have been amended through a public process to address new uses or incorporate newly acquired public lands in the plan area. The Bureau is currently developing a process to update the 15-year regional plans as they expire, recognizing that much of the information and direction contained in the original plans and five-year reviews remain valid. In addition, substantial progress was made on an update of the Integrated Resource Policy, the Bureau's primary multiple-use management guidance document, adopted in 2000.

Essential Places, Essential People: Research and data tell us that Maine's outdoors – including outdoor recreation, forest products, and tourism – has long been a driver of our economy that is hard to overstate. The pandemic has highlighted the fact that the outdoors fuels Maine's economy, and it also soothes souls. As Bureau staff welcomed the public in ever-growing numbers, we have all been reminded how Maine's Parks, Public Lands, boat launches, trails, and other outdoor recreation resources are essential to Mainers and visitors alike. Bureau staff, a team of dedicated foresters, biologists, planners, and other professionals, are essential to ensuring these resources are cared for and available for the future. Partnerships with other agencies, nonprofit and community organizations, private partners, and volunteers continue to elevate the Bureau's capacity and show the strength and value of our natural resources and the importance of collaboration as we continue to steward resources and serve the public.

While the Bureau is charged with stewardship of Maine's Public Lands, these are treasured places for all Mainers – as evidenced by their popularity this year as places to unplug and unwind. As we look ahead to the coming year and the challenges we know it will bring, we hope that new users return, long-time outdoor enthusiasts find new places to explore, and that all Mainers enjoy those special places that form the natural fabric of our state.

² The only exceptions are four small, isolated nonreserved lots in the Southern Maine and Central Interior plan areas that were transferred or gifted to the Bureau. There are no major public land units in those areas; therefore, regional plans have not been developed. Management plans for those lots will be developed as staff resources allow.

II. SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITIES

The Bureau of Parks and Lands is responsible for the management of Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands, State Parks, Historic Sites, the Allagash Wilderness Waterway (AWW), the Penobscot River Corridor (PRC), submerged lands, and state-held coastal islands (see Appendix A). A separate report has been provided to the legislature on the activities of the AWW.

In addition, the Bureau is responsible for protecting public rights and public values on certain lands. These include the public trust rights of fishing, waterfowl hunting, navigation, and recreation on submerged lands beneath coastal waters from mean low tide to the 3-mile territorial limit, on tidal portions of rivers, under natural Great Ponds, and under international boundary rivers. This responsibility also includes protecting public rights and values acquired from private landowners through conservation and public access easements donated to or purchased by the Bureau.

Maine statute authorizes the Bureau to acquire lands and interests in lands. Easements that protect public interests become a public trust responsibility for the Bureau, which is supported by stewardship endowments and revenues from Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands. Finally, the Bureau has an oversight role for public values associated with lands acquired by municipalities and local land trusts through the Land for Maine’s Future Program with Bureau sponsorship.

In Fiscal Year 2022, lands under the Bureau’s ownership, management, or oversight included:

Acres*	Type
630,860	Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands held in fee
389,829	Conservation and recreation easements
9,815	Forest Legacy conservation easements delegated to the Bureau for enforcement by the US Forest Service
378,140	Third-party conservation easements (the Bureau is a back-up holder)
602,423	Public access rights granted by easement by three large private landowners
85,594	Fee lands held as Parks, Historic Sites, or Boat Access Sites
2.3 million	Marine and freshwater submerged lands
1,095	Publicly held coastal islands
100	Lands leased from or under agreement from others for management as Parks
50,413	Bureau-sponsored lands acquired by local interests (Land for Maine’s Future Program)

**Acreages presented in this report are based on land transaction records, parcel boundaries mapped in geographic information systems (GIS), and in some cases, land surveys. Because survey-grade mapping is unavailable for all lands, reported acreages may have an inherent mapping error of around 2%.*

Beyond the Bureau’s land management responsibilities, several programs support public recreational access and trails. These include:

- **Boating Facilities:** builds boat access sites on state lands and funds municipal boat sites;
- **Snowmobile and ATV Programs:** provides grants to local clubs to build and maintain trails on both public and private lands;

- **Grants and Community Recreation Program:** distributes federal Land and Water Conservation Fund and Recreational Trails Program grant funds for state and local recreation projects; and
- **Maine Conservation Corps (MCC):** provides trail crews to construct or rehabilitate recreational trails using federal AmeriCorps funds and fees charged for MCC services. MCC trail crews are commonly used to improve trails on Bureau lands.

III. LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING

The Bureau manages 147 Public Reserved Land units and 16 Nonreserved Public Land units. These do not include lands leased to or managed by others, small islands, and lands with a minority common and undivided interest. Actively managed Reserved and Nonreserved Public Land units range from 30 to 44,000 acres.

The Bureau is statutorily mandated to manage Reserved and Nonreserved Lands for multiple public values. In addition, land management planning is a required element of forest certification. Bureau staff involved in managing Reserved and Nonreserved Lands include specialists in planning, forest roads, wildlife, terrestrial and wetland ecology, recreation, and forestry. All collaborate to ensure a balanced approach to managing the various resources on these lands.

The Bureau's ***Integrated Resource Policy*** (IRP), adopted in 1985 and revised in 2000, guides resource management decisions and governs management planning for all Public Reserved and Nonreserved lands. The Bureau is currently in the process of updating the IRP. This process will include opportunities for public comment and input. Management plans are prepared consistent with the IRP and consider comments received from a defined public process. The planning process allocates areas for specific uses, including:

- *Special Protection (Natural/Historic)*
- *Wildlife*
- *Recreation*
- *Timber*

These areas often overlap, creating zones where management is designed to accommodate a variety of uses. The relative impact of one use upon another is carefully weighed to establish a hierarchy of resource management that protects the most sensitive resources and uses while allowing other management to continue.

Regional management plans are developed with robust public involvement. A Public Advisory Committee is established for each plan to represent local, regional, and statewide interests. These committees serve as forums for the discussion of draft plans. Public meetings allow interested parties to provide input on management issues and comment on plan drafts. After considering these comments, the Bureau submits the final Plan to the Commissioner upon recommendation by its Director, and the Plan is effective upon the Commissioner's approval.

Management plans address the Reserved and Nonreserved lands within a planning region and cover fifteen years, with five-year reviews. Completing the Tumbledown/Mount Blue plan marks a significant milestone: management plans for all major land units are now in place. The five-year review process provides an update on progress in implementing the Plan

recommendations and addresses any changing conditions that may warrant amendments to the Plan. The Bureau’s responsibilities for the management of Public Reserved Lands are divided among Northern, Eastern, and Western Regions (see Appendix B). Appendix C provides a list of management units by region and plan area. The status of management plans for each of the 44 major Public Reserved Lands Units is provided in Appendix D.

Fiscal Year 2022 Planning Activities

Tumbledown/ Mount Blue Region	In the Western Region, work concluded on the Tumbledown/Mount Blue Region Management Plan, with an Advisory Committee meeting review followed by a public meeting and adoption of the Management Plan in February 2022.
Five-Year Reviews	Five-year reviews were completed for the Bradbury Mountain State Park & Pineland Public Land Plan (adopted 2011, 2 nd Review) and the Moosehead Region Plan (adopted 2017, 1 st Review)
FY 23 Update	The five-year review was initiated for the Kennebec Highlands Public Land Plan (adopted 2011, 2 nd Review).

IV. NATURAL AND HISTORICAL RESOURCES

NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORIES (NRIs)

The Maine Natural Areas Program (MNAP) conducts inventories of natural resources on lands managed by the Bureau. In general, inventories are done in advance of management planning to provide up-to-date information for the development of plans. Examples of completed NRI reports and associated management plans are available at www.ParksAndLands.com.

Fiscal Year 2022 Activities

MNAP continued to conduct inventories of significant botanical resources at various locations across the Public Lands. No active management planning efforts in 2022 required natural resource inventories.

HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

The Bureau’s 15-year Management Plans include information on BPL parcels taken from historical reports, input from the Maine Historic Preservation Commission (MHPC), and the public process for plan development.

ECOLOGICAL RESERVES

Ecological Reserves are designated areas containing representative native ecosystem types managed as special protection areas. They serve as benchmarks against which to measure changes in both managed and unmanaged ecosystems, to provide habitat unlikely to occur in managed forests, and to serve as sites for long-term scientific research, monitoring, and education.

Designation

Subject to statutory limitations noted below, the Bureau Director may designate Ecological Reserves on Bureau lands in conjunction with adopting a management plan, with a planning process that includes public review and comment, and with notification to the Scientific Advisory Committee as described in the next section.

Scientific Advisory Committee

An Ecological Reserves Scientific Advisory Committee (Sci Ad Committee) was established in the mid-1990s to guide the inventory and assessment of a potential Ecological Reserve system in Maine. Once the Reserve system was established in 2000, the Committee was maintained to guide monitoring and research within the system. The Sci Ad Committee also reviews potential Ecological Reserve additions according to science-based criteria, and any research project proposed and conducted by third parties.

Reporting

This annual report includes the status of these Reserves and the results of monitoring, scientific research, and other activities related to the Reserves (12 MRSA §1839 and §1853). It also fulfills the Bureau's requirement to notify the ACF Committee when a management plan proposes the designation of an Ecological Reserve (12 MRSA §1805). The history of Ecological Reserve designations is in Appendix E.

Current Status

The Bureau currently manages 18 designated Ecological Reserves with a total area of 95,423 acres.

Statutory Limits³

- The total land acreage designated as Ecological Reserves by statute may not exceed 115,000 acres.

FY 22 Status: 19,577 total acres remain available for Ecological Reserve designation.

- In addition, no more than 8% of the operable timberland on Public Lands may be designated as Ecological Reserves. Lands acquired after the statute's effective date (2000) with the prior designation as an ecological reserve are not included when calculating acreage limits.

FY 22 Status: 11,611 acres of operable timberland remain eligible for Ecological Reserves designation (Figure 4.1).

³ In 2022, the Governor approved the legislature's revisions to 12 MRSA §1805 that modified these statutory limits. Formerly, total acreage in Ecological Reserve was limited to 15% of the total land acreage under the jurisdiction of the Bureau or 100,000 acres, whichever was less; in addition, no more than 6% of the operable timberland on Public Lands could be designated as Ecological Reserve. As a result of the revisions, total acres available for Ecological Reserve designation increased by 15,000 acres, and operable timberland available for designation increased by 8,626 acres.

Figure 4.1 Ecological Reserves as a Proportion of Operable Timberland Acres* on Public Lands	
Land Type	Operable Timberland Acres
Total Operable Lands	429,578
8% of Operable Lands	34,366
Operable in Qualifying Reserves	22,755
Net available operable acres for ER designation	11,611
* Operable timberland acres are on lands held in fee, not including Ecological Reserves designated as a condition of the acquisition. The total includes an estimated 9,600 acres for Cold Stream Forest, Orient, and West Branch Pleasant River Units, for which field data is not yet available. Operable acres in Ecological Reserves include modifications adopted in 2007 and after (see Appendix E).	

Fiscal Year 2022 Additions and Modifications to Ecological Reserves

There were no additions or modifications to Ecological Reserves this fiscal year. Multiple Ecological Reserves are under consideration for expansion in FY 23.

Ecological Reserves Monitoring

MNAP collects baseline ecological data and conducts long-term monitoring for the Bureau's Ecological Reserve inventory. This monitoring fulfills two key purposes of the enabling legislation for Ecological Reserves – that they serve as 1) a “benchmark against which biological and environmental change may be measured” and 2) sites for “ongoing scientific research, long-term environmental monitoring, and education.”

In FY 22, MNAP completed the ten-year re-sampling of 48 plots at the Spring River Lake portion of Donnell Pond Ecological Reserve. This was the third monitoring round for these inventory plots. There are now 540 permanent plots on the 18 State Reserves. Results from this Continuous Forest Inventory are on MNAP's website at www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/reservesys/index.htm.

V. WILDLIFE RESOURCES

A key component of the Bureau's integrated resource management program is coordinating land management activities with fisheries and wildlife habitat enhancement. Since 1984, a wildlife biologist from the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (DIFW) has been assigned to the Bureau through a cooperative agreement between the two agencies. The primary responsibility of the biologist has been to develop and implement a habitat management program for Bureau-managed lands.

Wildlife management activities conducted in FY 22 on lands managed by the Bureau include:

Habitat Management Highlights

- In the Western, Northern, and Eastern Regions, 101 waterfowl nesting boxes were maintained.
- Field mowing activities to benefit grassland birds and other species of open habitats were performed on 82 acres at Days Academy, Hebron, Pineland, and Eagle Lake Public Lands.

- BPL maintained contracts for routine beaver control activities.
- At the Bigelow Preserve, a bridge was replaced with a longer span, and at the Cold Stream Forest, two culverts were replaced with bridges to improve stream and riparian area function for fish and wildlife.
- Approximately 71 acres of herbaceous seeding were established on Public Lands for wildlife forage and erosion control.
- Surveys for waterfowl, grassland birds, deer, songbirds, peregrine falcons, loons, snowshoe hares, bats, and lynx were completed on Public Lands across the state.

Deer Wintering Areas (DWAs)

The Bureau monitors and assesses approximately 35,800 acres of DWAs on Public Lands as part of its balanced wildlife management strategy.⁴ When winter travel conditions for deer are restrictive, aerial and ground surveys for deer activity are conducted on BPL-managed lands using DIFW protocols. This information is used to delineate cooperative winter habitat management areas for deer and other softwood-dependent wildlife.



Fiscal Year 2022 Activities

- The DIFW study of movement and mortality of deer wrapped up in FY 21, and BPL continued to facilitate access for monitoring mortalities.
- Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) data for the Scraggly Lake unit was acquired to assist in the development of a long-term model to guide habitat management. LIDAR is an efficient method to collect laser-generated, highly detailed information about forest canopy structure to provide habitat and other management information.
- The BPL staff biologist reviewed 5,705 acres of DWA as part of harvest planning, harvest site visits, and plan agreements for both zoned and cooperatively managed areas, such as at the Scraggly Lake and Seboomook Units, where harvests incorporate DWA management guidelines beyond the acreage zoned as DWA.
- The stand-level shelter management plan for the Cold Stream Forest Deer Habitat Management Area (3,221 acres) was completed and presented to BPL by DIFW.
- In response to questions about deer habitat management, BPL and DIFW staff facilitated public field tours of the harvesting at the Hamlin Public Land Unit.

Lynx Habitat Management

In FY 22, Bureau staff continued implementing a forest management plan for the Seboomook Unit as part of an agreement with DIFW to manage a ~22,000 acres for Canada lynx, which is currently listed as a threatened species by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The Bureau's goal

⁴ These acres include mapped DWAs in organized towns, LUPC zoning in unorganized territory, Habitat Management Areas (HMAs) outside/adjacent to zoned areas managed under HMA agreements, and other "biological" DWAs the Bureau manages without any formal MDIFW agreement.

is to create 4,200 acres of High-Quality Hare Habitat (HQHH) within the managed area by 2029. Timber market constraints for small-diameter softwood continued to limit harvests within the agreement area. DIFW and Bureau staff met to review the achievements of the first five years of the agreement and discuss plans for the coming years. Staff are preparing to provide DIFW with an update on the amount of HQHH in the agreement area for FY 23 using new forest structure mapping tools available through LIDAR and aerial imagery to refine potential habitat creation locations (harvest areas). This analysis aims to accelerate harvest activity leading to the creation of new HQHH in alignment with established goals.

Harvest Prescriptions

The BPL staff biologist reviewed timber harvest plans to ensure fish and wildlife habitat compatibility on 33,821 acres in or adjacent to the planned harvest units.

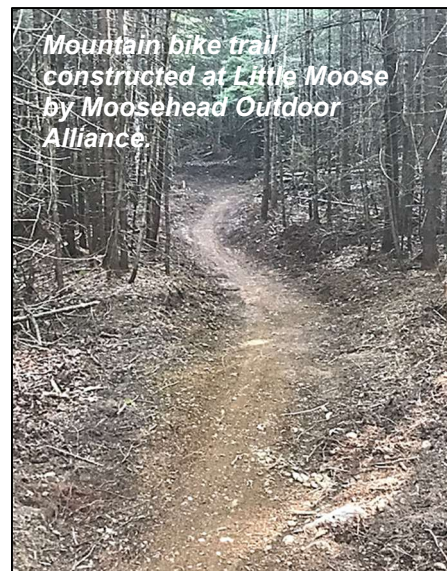
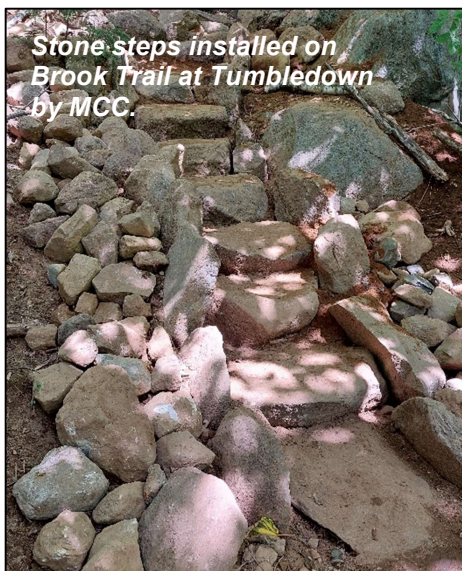
Other Research

BPL worked with various partners to facilitate wildlife-related research on Public Lands, including projects conducting small mammal rapid assessments, 30-year songbird abundance patterns, northern bog lemming distribution, and distribution of tick hosts.

VI. RECREATION RESOURCES

The Bureau's Public Lands Division is responsible for the following:

- 455 campsites;
- 228 miles of day hiking and backpacking trails (excluding 71 miles of Appalachian Trail located on Public Lands);
- 56 trailer-accessible and hand-carry boat launching sites, dozens of trailhead parking locations; and
- Several hundred miles of public access roads, which are generally maintained for travel by two-wheel drive vehicles with reasonable ground clearance, and adjacent forest management roads that are more suitable for four-wheel drive access.



Managing High Recreational Use

Like parks and open spaces across the country, Maine's Public Lands saw record levels of public use in 2020, the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the past two years, use levels remained elevated but with fewer instances of extreme crowding that strained parking areas and other facilities such as outhouses. The most popular trails, campsites, water access, and other locations remain busy. The pandemic has highlighted those areas that need improved facilities, expanded parking, or rebuilt trail systems.

The Bureau expects that social media and word of mouth will continue to help drive strong demand for outdoor recreation on Public Lands in Maine. Staff at BPL continue to work hard at investing resources in trails, campsites, roads, and information to make Public Lands more accessible and enjoyable.

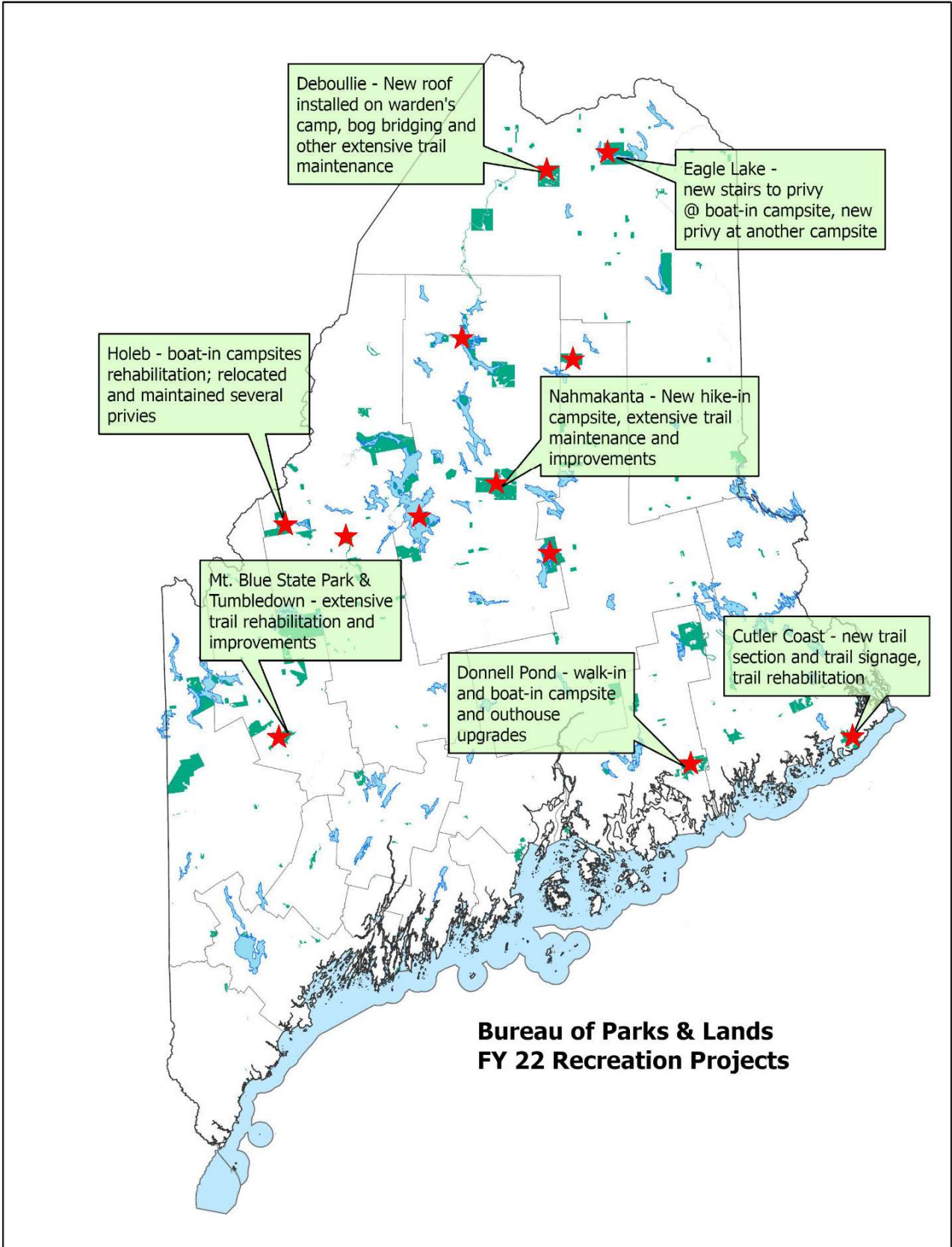
– FISCAL YEAR 2022 PROJECTS –

CAMPSITES & DAY USE AREAS

Donnell Pond	At Redman's Beach and Schoodic Beach, the Bureau upgraded boat-in and hike-in campsites and upgraded outhouses.
Nahmakanta	At Pollywog Pond, a new hike-in campsite was installed, and the lean-to at Farrar Nubble was re-stained.
Deboullie, Scraggly L.	A replacement privy was installed at Upper Pond at Deboullie, and a new vault was installed at a privy serving the Horseshoe campsites at Scraggy Lake.
Moosehead Lake	New picnic tables were installed at five boat-in campsites on the lake, and several campsites on recently donated Weyerhaeuser parcels in the region were renovated, and privies were installed.
Holeb	On the popular Moose River Bow trip canoe route, several outhouses at boat-in campsites were relocated, privies at several other campsites received new roofs or cribbing, and another campsite received major maintenance.
Eagle Lake	A 30-foot staircase to the Redbank boat-in campsite was constructed, and a new privy was installed at the Three Brooks boat-in campsite.

TRAILS

Deboullie	An MCC trail crew installed 323 feet of bog bridging, maintained 35 miles of trail corridor, removed 119 blowdowns, and upgraded other trail segments at this unit.
Cutler Coast	Work was completed on a new 1.25-mile inland section of the Cutler Coast trail, including new signage made by Eastern Region staff. In addition, an MCC trail crew maintained 2.7 miles of the trail corridor.
Nahmakanta	An MCC trail crew cleared 7.6 miles of the trail corridor, removed 46 blowdowns, installed 40 feet of bog bridging, constructed 190 feet of new trail, and installed water bars in addition to several stepping-stones, stone steps, and a log ladder. A volunteer trail crew accomplished similar work and installed a stream-side bench.
Chamberlain	At the Tramway Trail, 1,500 feet of bog bridging was installed by an MCC trail crew; the trail serves as a portage between Chamberlain Lake and Big Eagle Lake for Allagash Wilderness Waterway paddlers, as well as providing hikers access to historical sites at each shore.
Mt. Blue State Park/ Tumbledown	MCC trail crews cleared 3.75 miles of trail corridor and installed 234 feet of bog bridging at Mount Blue S.P. At nearby Tumbledown Public Reserved Land, 23 rock steps and 29 stepping-stones were installed.



Winter Trail Maintenance

The Bureau maintained plowed parking areas at popular winter trail destinations, including the East Outlet of Moosehead Lake, Range Trail on the Bigelow Preserve, Dodge Point Unit in Newcastle, two trailheads on Kennebec Highlands, and Donnell Pond.

SIGNAGE IMPROVEMENTS

Entrance Signs	A new yard-arm sign was installed at the Railroad Bed entrance to the Seboeis Unit.
Kiosks and Info. Boards	New kiosks were installed at the Nahmakanta (Katahdin View), Donnell Pond (Redman’s Beach), Deboullie, and Scopan Units. Information boards were installed at other locations at Deboullie and Scopan, as well as at the Cold Stream Forest Unit. The kiosks and signboards were constructed by Northern Region staff.
Other signage	All new campsite signs were installed at the Deboullie, Scopan, and Eagle Lake Units in the Northern Region. Road name signs and trail signs were also installed at the Nahmakanta Unit.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Deboullie	Northern Region staff installed a new roof on the crew camp on Togue Pond. Staff also assisted researchers with the installation of a climate monitoring station.
Big Moose	In coordination with the Western Region, the Forest Fire Lookout Association installed a memorial plaque at the site of the 1959 jeep accident that claimed the life of Big Moose Mountain Fire Watchman John Hutchinson in the line of duty.
Cold Stream Forest	Following a detailed inventory of several hundred privately owned canoes stored at backcountry ponds on the Unit, 17 canoes were removed as an initial step in a multi-year effort to bring boat storage at the ponds into conformity with Bureau policy and to improve the aesthetics of the storage areas. Boat users have expressed support and appreciation.
Nahmakanta	A Great Circle Trail dedication event, open and advertised to the public, was held on-site, marking the successful completion of the 10-year project that greatly expanded multiple-day backpacking opportunities on the Unit.

Recreation Staffing

- Two year-round and four seasonal rangers were involved in recreation management activities in FY 22. Seasonal rangers are responsible for recreation facilities maintenance and construction and for informing visitors about recreational opportunities and Bureau rules.
- The Volunteer Campground Host Program continued at Cowan’s Cove and Spencer Bay (Moosehead Lake), Cold Stream Forest, and Big Eddy (Flagstaff Lake Unit), with an additional host at the Bigelow Preserve to assist at Big Eddy and other campgrounds on the Unit. These campgrounds are free to the public, and the length of stay is limited to 14 days in a 45-day period. Volunteer hosts oversee these campgrounds in return for extended stays.
- A volunteer position created in 2020 at Kennebec Highlands continued to assist with trail management.



- In cooperation with Mount Blue State Park, the Western Lands Region utilized the AmeriCorps Environmental Steward program to provide staffed assistance with recreational monitoring and management at Tumbledown Public Land, which hosts one of the busiest trailheads in Maine.

Special Use Permits

- The Bureau issued a total of 26 permits for a range of activities, including tree stands, trapping, a trail running race, ATV use, a white oak study, a survey for invasive organisms on boats launched at the Donnell Pond Unit, a climate data collection station, fir tipping, and other gathering, trapping, and research projects.

VII. FEES

Most access to Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands is free. However, in some circumstances, fees are charged because these lands are accessed through private recreation management systems (North Maine Woods and KI-Jo Mary) or because the Bureau has contracted with nearby recreation providers (South Arm Campground and Baxter State Park). There were no fee increases in FY 22.

Fees charged in Fiscal Year 2022 on Public Reserved Lands are as follows:

North Maine Woods, Inc. Recreation Management (NMW)	Seven checkpoints, staffed seasonally, control primary access from main points to 95,000 acres of Public Reserved Land, including Baker Lake, Deboullie, Round Pond, Chamberlain, Telos, and portions of Seboomook. Camping fees are returned to the Bureau when the Bureau assumes maintenance responsibilities, as at Deboullie.	<u>Residents/Non-Residents</u> Day-use: \$11/\$16 per person Camping: \$12/\$15 per person/night
KI Jo-Mary Recreation Management	175,000 acres of primarily private lands where public recreation is allowed, subject to fees. About 2,200 acres of Public Reserved Land in Bowdoin College Grant East lies within this system. Day-use fees also apply for entrance or exit to the Nahmakanta Unit from the south via the KI-Jo Mary system.	<u>Residents/Non-Residents</u> Day-use: \$11/\$16 per person Camping: \$14/\$14 per person/night
South Arm Campground	Boat-access campsites on Upper Richardson Lake are leased to South Arm Campground, a privately-owned facility on adjoining private land. The campground retains a portion of fees to cover maintenance of the twelve campsites and the Mill Brook public boat launch facility at the north end of the lake.	<u>Camping Fees:</u> \$15 per night per site
Bear Bait Permits	By state rule (04-059-Chapter 54), a permit from the Bureau is required before placing bait for bear on Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands that are not managed jointly with another entity. In FY 22, the Bureau issued 451 bear bait permits: 178 for personal sites and 273 for commercial sites, with permit revenues totaling \$23,085.	<u>Personal/Commercial</u> \$30/\$65 per site

VIII. PUBLIC INFORMATION

Bureau Website

The Bureau uses its website (www.ParksAndLands.com) to provide maps and facility information for most of its Public Lands, Parks, and Historic Sites. As resources allow, enhancements are made to increase its usefulness to visitors and the broader conservation and environmental education communities. The website received over 1.6 million page views across all programs and 130,123 downloads of documents in FY 22. *Use has more than tripled from fiscal year 2021.*

NEW IN FISCAL YEAR 2022

- Newsletter Archived Online – Due to the popularity of the BPL Newsletter, it has been archived online so that readers may access the last 100 issues at https://www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/discover_history_explore_nature/newsletter/index.shtml

UPDATES on Web Developments

All use and subscription rates continue to increase:

- Alerts & Conditions – Live field updates are distributed by text, email, and web were developed for all Public Lands Regions in FY 20. During FY 22, subscriptions almost doubled over the previous year to 1,849 subscribers for the Public Lands alerts. (www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/trail_activities/publiclands_trail_conditions.shtml)
- Off-Season and Winter Camping – BPL’s webpage provides information about shoulder seasons and camping opportunities at Public Lands and State Parks. We currently have over 4,830 subscribers to Backcountry Camping updates and over 3,680 subscribers to Winter Camping updates representing a 15% increase from the prior year. (www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/camping/off-season-camping.shtml)
- Timber Harvest Information – BPL provides continued messaging and signage improvement about scheduled and active timber harvesting on Public Lands utilizing QR codes in the field that link to online messaging and through the use of the Public Lands Alerts system.
- Closures & Trail Information – Messaging for Tumbledown Public Land’s camping closure, trail improvements, and opportunities for the public to join the Maine Conservation Corps and BPL staff members for trail improvement projects were very well received this year.

Guide & Map Brochures

The Bureau continues to develop its series of in-depth brochures, available online and in printed form (www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/publications_maps/index.shtml). An inventory has been conducted of lands without a map or guide, and work is proceeding to develop materials for those units. More emphasis has been placed on making the guide and map series available online. FY 22 activities included:

- New Guides Completed in 2022 – Kennebec Highlands Public Land and Camden Hills and Ferry Beach State Parks were completed.
- Updates Completed in 2022 – Cutler Coast updated with the final configuration of the Inland Trail (the previous version had been a temporary reroute) and Rocky Lake.

Bureau Newsletter

An e-newsletter that features Bureau news and events is sent out monthly to over 26,160 e-mail and text alert subscribers, an increase of 1,987 subscribers from last year. Articles on Public Lands featured topics such as training in partnership with the University of Maine about Brown Ash and its cultural importance to the Wabanaki tribes, the Moosehead Lake Region parcel donations by Weyerhaeuser Co., an Ash tree/Emerald Ash Borer landowner survey for U-Maine, Hebron orchard maintenance, invasive species education, and the Cold Stream Forest shoreline boats clean-up project. Sign-up is available through text to subscribe (text DACF BPL NEWS to (888) 514-7527) or at:

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MEDACF/subscriber/new>.

Interpretation

FY 22 projects included:

- Nature Note – A weekly e-note about the natural world was started in April 2020 and currently has 3,154 subscribers, an increase of 747 subscribers from last year. Text DACF NATURE to (888) 514-7527 to subscribe or view at: www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/discover_history_explore_nature/nature_exploration/nature_note.shtml.
- Bat Research and Programs – In partnership with DIFW, a grant was secured to purchase Echo Meters for use in both bat acoustic survey work and in public programs. Bat survey work will continue in 2023. Bat programs held during the summer of 2022 were very well received and will be expanded on during the summer of 2023.
- Dark Skies Initiative – This effort is working to promote the importance of Dark Skies for ecological and human health, as well as for star gazing, bat and moth viewing, bird migrations, and other nighttime nature observations and research. BPL partnered on a MOHF grant with *Mountains of Stars* (a group promoting and connecting people to dark skies) and the filmmaker Tara Roberts Zabriskie, whose grant-funded film *Defending the Dark* traveled throughout Maine during the summer of 2022. It will be featured in BPL educational programs in 2023.

IX. PARTNERSHIPS ON PUBLIC LANDS AND STATE PARKS

The acquisition and management of Public Lands is achieved through collaboration with members of the public as well as a variety of stakeholders, conservation partners, and industries. The Bureau's partnerships take many forms – from formal agreements with local entities to manage recreational use to partnering with state agencies on resource management and planning and collaborating on events and outings that help connect new users to Public Lands. Several noteworthy partnerships from FY 22 include:

Maine Island Trail Association

In FY 22, MITA and the Bureau continued over 30 years of partnership in the management of the Maine Island Trail, which now extends 375 miles and consists of over 200 islands and mainland sites for day visits or camping. Funds from submerged lands leases support ongoing stewardship of the trail (\$70,000 in FY 22). MITA monitors public use, marshals volunteers, and deploys staff to clean and maintain these wilderness sites along the Maine coast. Two caretakers are staffed at BPL sites on Jewell and Little Chebeague Islands in busy Casco Bay.

Maine Trail Finder	Information about non-motorized trails on Public Lands may be found at www.mainetrailfinder.com , operated by the nonprofit Center for Community GIS in Farmington. The Bureau has worked with the Center to develop descriptions and interactive maps for 40 trails located on Maine Public Lands.
University of Maine - Orono	The Northern Region provided access to a BPL timber harvest and provided input for the UMO winter Forestry Camp. In addition, the Bureau is collaborating with UMO researchers on a survey of Maine residents focused on outdoor recreation issues and trends and qualitative work to learn from underserved communities about their use of and relation to the public lands. The Bureau continues to contribute funding and staff expertise to the University of Maine Cooperative Research Unit focused on forest research priorities, including silviculture, wildlife, and other forest-related science.
State Agency Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maine Natural Areas Program – oversees long-term monitoring of BPL Ecological Reserves and provides technical review of potential acquisitions and management plans. • Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife – provides a BPL staff biologist and helps coordinate activities related to lynx habitat management, Deer Wintering Areas, invasive species, and development of statewide acquisition priorities • Maine Office of Outdoor Recreation, Maine Office of Tourism, and the Maine Tourism Association – identify outreach opportunities for delivering information about the Public Lands to various stakeholders and the public. • Maine Forest Service and the State Entomology Lab – provide outreach about invasive insects and remind visitors to “Burn it Where You Buy It” through notifications on the website, materials sent to campers, and posts at campsites. MFS also conducts spruce budworm and emerald ash borer trapping on Public Lands to monitor population growth and detect potential outbreaks of these destructive pests. • Maine State Parks have numerous partnerships with non-profit entities and vendors, including Impact Melanoma, the Nature-Based Education Consortium, LL Bean, the Girl Scouts, and many more.
Land Trusts	The 7 Lakes Alliance assists the Bureau in managing trails and trailheads at the Kennebec Highlands and in pursuing additional land acquisition opportunities. The Coastal Rivers Conservation Trust assists with the maintenance of trails and facilities and helps the Bureau refine messaging, kiosks, and other signs at Dodge Point. Royal River Conservation Trust has coordinated volunteers to conduct trail maintenance and has collaborated with the Bureau on other trail issues at Pineland Public Lands. In FY 22, RRCT and BPL continued working toward the 2023 acquisition of new parcels near Pineland Public Lands. The Greater Lovell Land Trusts manages Sabbatus Mountain for the Bureau.
Maine Conservation Corps	The MCC provides trail crews to construct or rehabilitate recreational trails using federal AmeriCorps funds and fees charged for MCC services. MCC trail crews are commonly used to improve trails on Bureau lands and completed several projects in FY 22.
North Maine Woods / KI Jo-Mary	For many years, the North Maine Woods and KI Jo-Mary organizations have contracted with BPL to maintain numerous day-use recreation facilities and campsites on Public Lands within their management areas. In FY 22, the Bureau collaborated with KI Jo-Mary on road and parking improvements in the Gulf Hagas area.
Appalachian Mountain Club	The AMC maintains Nordic skiing and snowshoeing trails on Public Lands abutting their properties as part of their extensive winter trails network. In FY 22, AMC also contributed to road and parking improvements in the Gulf Hagas area.

New England Mountain Bike Association	Local NEMBA chapters are collaborating with BPL on planning, development, and maintenance of purpose-built single-track mountain bike trails at Crocker Mountain, Kennebec Highlands, and Little Moose.
ATV & Snowmobile Clubs	Numerous clubs collaborate with the Bureau's Off-Road Vehicle division on trail planning, funding, construction, and maintenance (including winter grooming of snowmobile trails). The statewide ATV and snowmobile trail networks provide hundreds of miles of riding opportunities, primarily on private lands.
Research Requests	Special activity permits for several research projects on Public Lands were issued for vegetation and soil surveys, a study of white oak chemical and genetic composition, and studying movements and survival of deer.
Logging and Forestry Education Grants	The Bureau awarded a second round of \$50,000 competitive grants to the St. John Valley Technical Center in Frenchville and Brewer High School. The schools will use the funds to buy forestry equipment to serve hundreds of students and support forestry education programs that train and inspire the next generation of Maine loggers. BPL has now committed a total of \$250,000 since 2021 to five programs in Maine.

X. TIMBER RESOURCES

The Bureau manages the natural resources on the lands under its care through a carefully planned multiple-use program that balances timber management with all other resource values. Timber revenues support the Bureau's Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands management expenses, including the provision of recreation facilities, public access roads, and wildlife management. Other public benefits include contributing to the local economy through employment opportunities for contractors and supplying raw materials to regional forest products industries. The provision of low-cost firewood through the Bureau's firewood harvest permit program is a secondary benefit. The focal point of all Bureau forestry is the demonstration of exemplary multi-aged management focused primarily on mature quality timber.

FY 22 HARVEST AND MARKET ANALYSIS

Timber harvested in FY 22 on Bureau lands from inventory totaled 112,400 cord equivalents (116,000 cord equivalents including biomass) harvested from 10,900 acres (10.6 cords/acre). This figure is slightly below the ten-year average harvest level and represents 73% of the 2018 Bureau-established Sustainable Harvest Level of 159,000 cords. The FY 22 harvest level is a 37% increase from FY 21, which was an exceptionally low harvest due to market and logging contractor limitations. The Sustainable Harvest Level (SHL) is the maximum volume that can be sustainably harvested (i.e., harvest is calculated as approximately 90% of growth). Ten, five, and three-year averages of harvest levels as percentages of SHL are presented in the table below.

	10 year Average	5 year Average	3 year Average
Total Cord Equivalents	127,500	112,600	101,900
Total harvest as a percent of SHL	84%	71%	64%

Values are rounded to the nearest 100 cords.

Harvest levels below SHL include highly variable markets, weather conditions, and available logging workforce. While strong demand and pricing for spruce and fir existed due to the

strong housing market, hardwood and especially softwood, pulp markets remained weak in some regions. BPL’s reduced harvest generally reflected similar trends across the forest products industry.

Despite challenging conditions, the Bureau and its 20+ highly valued logging and road contractors supplied wood to over 40 mills statewide in FY 22. A total of 25 distinct logging operations occurred in FY 22. These operations are a combination of newly established sales and sales carried over from previous years.

Significant investments since 2015 in logging road networks on Public Lands allowed the Bureau to respond to changing markets, the changing climate, and other challenging conditions.

For FY 22, the average price paid to the Bureau per cord rose across all three regions, climbing by approximately 27% Bureau-wide. This increase resulted from stable pulp markets and a continuation of very high softwood dimensional lumber prices.

The table below provides a breakdown of harvest in each region and Sustainable Harvest Unit (SHU) within regions. In each of the three Public Land regions, growth significantly exceeded harvest. Two SHU’s exceeded SHU-level sustainable harvest limit in FY 22. No SHU exceeded SHL on a 3-year average basis. (Note that Sustainable Harvest Level, as shown in the table below, is set conservatively at approximately 90% of growth.) Both SHUs that exceeded their respective SHL in FY 22 harvested between 84-92% of their respective SHL over the past three-year period and less over a five and 10-year period.

SHU	Annual SHL (FY17-22)	3 Year Average Harvest	FY 22 Harvest	FY 21 Harvest
ZE1	10,400	4,300	7,900	3,000
ZE2	11,400	4,500	4,400	3,300
ZE3	15,700	12,100	12,000	11,600
ZE4	9,200	8,900	9,200	11,000
ZN1	16,100	10,800	13,700	7,900
ZN2	11,500	10,600	12,800	7,000
ZN3	9,700	8,100	12,500	6,300
ZN4	10,600	10,200	7,900	10,000
ZW1	17,000	8,700	14,900	600
ZW2	13,300	7,300	7,900	8,600
ZW3	7,800	2,700	1,200	2,700
ZW4	9,400	7,000	4,600	8,600
ZW5	2,500	1,200	0	1,900
ZW6	14,500	5,400	7,100	2,300
EAST	46,700	29,700	33,400	28,900
NORTH	47,900	39,600	46,900	31,300
WEST	64,500	32,500	35,700	24,800
TOTAL	159,100	101,900	116,000	84,900

**All figures are cord equivalents, rounded to the nearest 100 cords.*

As part of its multiple-use management, the Bureau will continue to emphasize maintaining the multi-year harvest volume at a sustainable level while continuing to practice the highest quality silviculture. Operational issues and natural events will continue to affect harvest volumes both negatively and positively.

HARVEST OPERATION IMPACTS

Logger Work Force

High levels of veteran logger retirement, a low amount of new recruitment, and competitive wages in other sectors, especially trucking, have resulted in a significant shortage of available logging contractors. This trend is occurring across the forest products industry. Securing contracts for timber harvests remains a challenge, especially for winter harvests. The Bureau has increased investments in upgrading roads for operation in summer months, which increases the ability to retain loggers throughout the year. Improved roads are also more resilient to high-severity rainfall events (see Changing Climate discussion below). Implementation of contract logging services (CLS) has enabled the Bureau to better match harvest scheduling with markets and with the availability of harvest equipment.

Insects and Disease

To address the threat of a spruce budworm outbreak, the Bureau has for decades targeted the more budworm-susceptible balsam fir when harvesting, resulting in a spruce-to-fir ratio much higher than for the state as a whole. The Bureau-managed forest holds nearly three cords of spruce for each cord of fir, while the overall Maine forest has 1.6 cords of spruce per cord of fir. This fir management practice will be continued by taking a higher proportion of the otherwise healthy younger fir and modifying harvest locations to focus on areas with higher fir components. Particularly in northern and central Aroostook County, a marked increase in spruce budworm activity was detected in the summer of 2020. As a result, the Bureau has responded with timely harvests in New Sweden and Hamlin during Winter 2021-22, where active budworm defoliation was detected. Maine Forest Service findings for 2021 indicate a steep decline in budworm populations, as the weather in the spring of 2021 was not favorable for reproduction and flights. Bureau staff monitor for budworm symptoms (as well as other forest pests and diseases) on the ground and engage with state-wide surveillance efforts.

“2021 marked the first year of the current spruce budworm population build-up that aerial surveys were able to detect larval feeding damage and the second year that appreciable feeding damage was detectable during ground surveys. Despite this, average spruce budworm moth capture across Maine has dropped for the second consecutive monitoring season. Results of the CFRU-led L2 survey are forthcoming and will help to shed additional light on Maine’s spruce budworm situation heading into 2022.”

- Michael Parisio, Maine Forest Service Entomologist

Changing Climate

The Bureau routinely experiences challenges imposed by a changing climate. These challenges include the absence of frozen ground in a reduced winter harvest season and increased intensity of rain and wind storms and stream flows. Longer growing seasons may be causing gradual increases in invasive species. Bureau staff monitor statewide and regional discussions, conferences, and research regarding climate-adapted forestry practices. In addition, Bureau management maintains a higher stocking of long-lived species across its managed forests, which, combined with Ecological Reserves, maintain a high rate of carbon storage and sequestration. A recent report by the University of Maine indicates that the Bureau’s Ecological

Reserves store 30% more carbon on average than a typical acre of Maine forest. The implications of Maine's changing climate on timber management will be addressed in the ongoing update of the Bureau's Integrated Resource Policy.

TIMBER INVENTORY

An important facet of the timber management program is inventory and forest resource monitoring. The inventories are conducted on the 'regulated' acres portion of the land base under the Bureau's management -- that portion on which net growth and annual allowable cut are calculated. Though forest inventories are only a sampling of the trees, the total volume estimates are quite reliable, with a 5% margin of error. By statute, the Bureau is directed to present an updated inventory to the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee.

Benchmark field data acquired in 1999 provided detailed timber, site, and natural resource measurements. This inventory was fully updated in 2011 and again in 2016, and it continues to be important for both forest management planning and third-party forest certification. The growth recorded using inventories in 1999, 2011, and 2016 showed a forest inventory increase from 20.9 cords per acre in 1999 to 23.5 cords per acre in 2016. The Bureau employed growth and yield models to update the 2016 inventory information to support the current Sustainable Harvest Limit (SHL) estimates. Observed growth rates and the forest model completed early in 2020 each indicate an inventory increase of between 0.5 and 0.6 cords per acre, bringing the BPL timber-management lands up to 24 cords per acre. Net growth on regulated acres is approximately 0.43 cords/acre/year, and the Bureau's harvest rate over the past three years has been significantly below growth (64% of the SHL).

Staff have begun to explore options related to state-of-the-art inventory methods, such as Enhanced Forest Inventory (EFI), both Bureau-wide and in more discrete projects, such as the deer wintering area analysis of the 10,000-acre Scraggly Lake Unit in cooperation with the DIFW. Enhanced Forest Inventories are "wall to wall" estimates of conventional stand and forest measurements (such as volume, average tree size, etc.) for an entire area, as opposed to traditional inventories, which expand values from individual field points. LIDAR is used to develop height and density measurements from point clouds cross-referenced with a set of field-based measurements to generate the EFI. The Scraggly Lake project employs EFI and inventory plot data in growth and yield models to assess current and future deer habitat under a variety of management scenarios.

Status of Current Inventory and Annual Allowable Cut (AAC)

Compared to the 1999 and 2011 volumes per acre, the current inventory shows that most softwood species have increased, especially spruce and white pine. Among hardwoods, aspen had the largest decrease in volume, while most other hardwoods remained about the same. The drop in aspen results from the natural mortality of this relatively short-lived species and harvests that target it because of that senescence.

The table below shows the changes in AAC for FY 13 through FY 22. When the inventory increase and the harvest volumes during the previous twelve years are considered, the net growth rate on the Bureau's Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands **is 18% higher than that for Maine's forests as a whole**. As a result, the yield curves calculated from the AAC were reworked using the increased stocking levels. This resulted in the AAC increasing for FY 13 and beyond by about 20%, from 115,000 to 141,500 cords (as previously reported for CY 12). The inclusion of 27,565 acres of operable land in recent acquisitions warranted a recalculated AAC of 149,000 cords/year in FY 16.

Fiscal Year	AAC Cords	Rationale, Support for Changes*
2013	141,500	Model 2012, 15% discount
2014	141,500	Model 2012, 15% discount
2015	141,500	Model 2012, 15% discount
2016	149,000	Included 27,565 “new” acres
2017	157,500	2016 inventory warrants a 10% discount due to operationally inaccessible acres
2018	159,000	A small addition to acreage
2019	159,000	No change from 2018
2020	159,000	No change from 2018
2021	159,000	No change from 2018
2022	159,000	No change from 2018
<i>2018-22</i>	<i>159,000</i>	<i>Avg. Actual harvest: 114,000 cords</i>

As part of the 2015 budget document, the legislature included the following: “...timber harvesting on Public Reserved and Nonreserved Public Lands may not exceed an average of 160,000 cords per year over any 3-year period.” The language also mandated that any change in allowable harvest levels must be implemented through the State’s rulemaking process.

The inventory conducted late in 2016 provided a statistically rigorous look at how the increased harvest levels during the five years FY 12 through FY 16 impacted the stocking of the managed forest. Harvesting for those five years averaged 131,400 cords per year, and volume on those lands sampled in both 2011 and 2016 increased by 3.5 percent. Implementation of the 2020 forest model further increased confidence in net growth on Bureau lands.

Harvest levels are guided by up-to-date timber typing and a spatially explicit forest model. These tools allow the Bureau to identify the most appropriate places to consider for achieving silvicultural goals. In recent years a new timber-typing data layer was created, updating information that was last created in the mid-1990s. Complementing tree inventory data, these new typing maps are an important resource for Bureau field staff when examining and prescribing management activities in the forest. The next inventory is scheduled for 2024.

PRESCRIPTIONS

Planning for the timber management of Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands is a two-step process:

- A multiple-use management plan for the unit as a whole is prepared and adopted, providing broad management direction and allocating lands to their dominant uses, and
- More detailed harvest plans for discrete areas between 500-2,000 acres (known as compartments) are then developed for the unit.

Compartments are examined on a 15-year cycle to identify timber and wildlife resources and recreational opportunities. Based on the field examination and the information collected, work plans called “prescriptions” are developed to ensure adequate protection of special resources and a sustained yield of forest goods and services, which include timber, wildlife, and appropriate recreational uses. This work includes collaboration with MNAP as well as DIFW staff. By way of example, the Seboomook Unit is part of a Memorandum of Understanding with

DIFW concerning Canada lynx. Similar work is occurring in the Scraggly Lake Unit and other sites totaling more than 38,000 acres where winter deer habitat is a high priority.

TIMBER SALES

A timber sale is developed if a timber harvest is prescribed in a compartment. Most timber contracts are put out to competitive bid following State rules and procedures governing the sale of State property and purchase of services. Occasionally sales are negotiated, following State rules, when no bids are received, for special circumstances, or for small volumes to allow new contractors to gain experience working on Bureau lands to Bureau standards.

Before 2012, most timber was sold as ‘stumpage.’ The Bureau has increasingly used the CLS option over the past several fiscal years (see discussion below), as the Bureau retains greater control over the marketing of the wood. CLS tends to offer a better financial return to the Bureau. Objectives for CLS are three-fold: 1) to improve stability in achieving harvest goals, 2) to enhance Bureau timber revenues, and 3) to have logging roads built under contract rather than being part of the stumpage permit, thus better ensuring that roads are of high quality and established well in advance of harvests. Where CLS has been utilized, the feedback from the mills and contractors has mainly been positive. CLS allows the Bureau better control over its road management. The Bureau sometimes executes stumpage contracts if circumstantially beneficial due to variables such as regional contractor availability and/or markets.

Bureau staff work closely with contractors and supervise each harvest by providing loggers with strict harvesting criteria. These criteria specify which trees should be harvested, how and where to locate harvest trails, and any additional job-specific instructions. Ecologically and economically high-value stands are generally “marked” (painted to cut) to ensure compliance with the prescription. The development of global positioning systems (GPS) in harvest machinery has allowed Bureau field staff to monitor contractor performance more effectively. Bureau staff monitor harvest operations every week at a minimum.

Firewood Permit Program

BPL provides “firewood” permits to residents by request. Trees are marked standing, and permits to harvest them are sold to private individuals on a per-cord basis (generally up to four cords per customer). Fifteen permits for a total of 53 cords were issued in FY 22.

Sugar Bush Licenses

The Bureau’s Western Region currently has three sugar bush licenses – one at the Bald Mountain Unit in Rangeley and two in Sandy Bay Township. All are for five-year terms. The 40-acre Bald Mountain operation consists of approximately 2,200 taps and includes a tap system and a collection tank. The sap is processed off-site. When fully utilized, the Sandy Bay Township operations will consist of approximately 34,000 taps on up to 400 acres. This operation includes two full-service sugar houses to produce finished maple syrup, one serving 14,000 taps and the other 20,000 taps. Currently, the two Sandy Bay licenses are at about 50% and 25% of full utilization, respectively, with plans to add taps each season.

EXEMPLARY MANAGEMENT MANDATE

By Maine Statute (12 MRSA § 1847), the Bureau must manage Public Reserved Lands “to demonstrate exemplary land management practices, including silvicultural, wildlife and recreation management practices.” In support of this mandate, the Bureau’s forest management is consistent with dual third-party certification – the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI®) and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC®) programs – as well as a Silvicultural Advisory

Committee and participation in the Maine Forest Service's Outcome-Based Forestry initiative and the Cooperative Forest Research Unit (CFRU).

Forest Certification

Since 2002, the Bureau's forest management activities have been certified as sustainable under two independent certification systems: the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC®) and Sustainable Forest Initiative (SFI®). Each year the Bureau's forestry operations and overall forest management system are "audited" by these two certification systems.

FY 22, the Bureau had annual audits under the FSC and SFI programs. The auditors, working with our certification consultants, Scientific Certification Systems (SCS), visited sites in the Bureau's Western Region where auditors inspected roadwork, campsites, bridge construction, Ecological Reserves, and completed and active timber harvests. All audit findings were assessed and addressed by the Bureau by September 2022. The majority of findings identified were administrative in nature and a new information sharing platform was set up to streamline the flow of information from staff to auditors. These improvements resulted in a perfect FY'23 audit conducted in Fall 2022. More information on the Bureau's certification program can be found at:

<https://www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/about/formgmt.shtml>

Silvicultural Advisory Committee

In 1986, the Bureau established a Silvicultural Advisory Committee with representatives from environmental groups, academia, and forest managers from public and private landowners. The purpose of the Advisory Committee is to review and critique forest management policies and practices on Public Lands. Each year the Bureau sponsors a field trip during which the Committee examines forestry work the Bureau has completed or is planning, providing valuable input to all forestry staff through on-site dialogue.

Committee Tour: The FY 22 SAC field tour was held during August 2021 in BPL's Northern Region, visiting the Scraggly Lake and Scopan Public Lands and The Nature Conservancy's Big Reed old-growth forest. Deer wintering area and late-successional forest management training were the focal points for all stops.

Cooperative Forest Research Unit (CFRU)

The Bureau participates in a research cooperative housed at the University of Maine at Orono, originally formed in 1975, in response to the spruce budworm outbreak. CFRU membership includes forest landowners (BPL and 26 private landowners representing 8.3 million acres), representatives of two wood processors, and six corporate/individual members. Together, contributions amount to approximately \$500,000 annually to support research projects of interest to the members. With the potential for another spruce budworm outbreak, research is again focused on that issue. The Bureau contributes approximately \$25,000/year to CFRU, proportional to our acres in managed timberland.

XI. TRANSPORTATION

The Bureau continued to improve road access within its Public Lands, focusing primarily on recreational needs and its timber management program implementation. There are currently about 253 miles of public access roads on Public Lands.

ROADS & ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS

Timber Management Road Construction

To facilitate both summer and winter timber harvesting activities across the state, approximately 16.8 miles of timber management road were constructed, 15.5 miles were upgraded or reconstructed in FY 22, and several temporary wood and concrete bridges were installed. All three Bureau regions have purchased and are deploying folding steel temporary truck bridges.

Public/Shared Use Road Maintenance

Each year, the Bureau contracts maintenance services for grading and brushwork on public-use roads and shared-use roads, as well as certain management roads open to the public.⁵ In FY 22, approximately 223 miles of roads were maintained under contract in the Northern Region, 98.5 miles in the Western Region, and 43.9 miles in the Eastern Region. Roadside vegetation control was conducted on 10.1 miles of roads in the Eastern Region, 62.1 miles in the Northern Region, and 2 miles in the Western Region.

New Roads – FY 22 (miles)

Type	North	West	East	Total
Public Access	1.3	0	0	1.3
Summer Management	5.0	8.0	1.6	14.6
Winter Management	0.2	2.0	0	2.2

Upgraded roads – FY 22 (miles)

Type	North	West	East	Total
Public Access	0	2.0	0	2.0
Summer Management	0	2.0	7.0	9.0
Winter Management	0	6.5	0	6.5

Roads Maintained – FY 22 (miles)

Type	North	West	East	Total
Public Access	68.0	89.5	42.0	199.5
Summer Management	155.0	9.0	15.0	179.0

FY 23 to date roads summary

New Roads – FY 23 to date (miles)

Type	North	West	East	Total
Public Access	0	0	0	0
Summer Management	5.0	4.0	5.3	14.3
Winter Management	0.1	2.0	0	2.1

Upgraded roads – FY 23 to date (miles)

Type	North	West	East	Total
Public Access	0	0	0	0
Summer Management	0.3	0.5	2.1	2.9

⁵ As defined in the IRP, public use roads are all-weather roads designed to facilitate access to recreation facilities; shared use roads are those that are open to ATVs, horses and/or bikes in addition to passenger vehicles.

Winter Management	0	3.5	0.5	4.0
-------------------	---	-----	-----	------------

Roads Maintained – FY 23 (miles)

Type	North	West	East	Total
Public Access	25.0	78.5	52.0	155.5
Summer Management	5.0	14.0	8.0	27.0
Winter Management	0	2.0	0	2.0

BRIDGES

In FY 22, the Bureau installed and rehabilitated several bridges, as listed below:

- Eastern Region** | Installed a new bridge, redecked another at the Nahmakanta Unit, installed two new bridges at the Big Lake North Lot, and re-decked three additional ones at the Seboeis, Bradley, and Machias River Units, and installed two temporary bridges at the Seboeis Unit.
- Western Region** | Installed five new bridges at the Bigelow and Bald Mountain Units and rehabilitated three bridges at the Little Moose and Bald Mountain Units. In addition, a bridge on a timber haul road across neighboring private land providing access to the Seboomook Unit was rehabilitated.
- Northern Region** | Installed one temporary bridge at the Eagle Lake Unit and redecked two bridges at the Round Pond and Deboullie Units.



New bridge to enhance stream and riparian area function at Bigelow Unit, BPL Western Region

XII. PUBLIC ACCESS

Eighty-four percent of Public Reserved Lands were accessible by motor vehicle to the public without fee or special arrangements in FY 22. The following is a report of the few circumstances where barriers affect primary motor vehicle access, as required in 12 MRSA §1853.

EXTERNAL GATES TO PUBLIC LANDS

North Maine Woods	Seven checkpoints, staffed seasonally, control primary access from main points to 95,000 acres of Public Reserved Land, including Deboullie, Round Pond, Chamberlain, Telos, and portions of Seboomook.
KI Jo-Mary	Two checkpoints, staffed seasonally, control access to Bowdoin College Grant East public lots totaling 2,200 acres. A third checkpoint controls access to the 44,000-acre Nahmakanta Unit. Additionally, a gate funded and operated by the Bureau at the border between Nahmakanta and the KI Jo-Mary system controls access from Nahmakanta into the KI Jo-Mary system.
Cary Plantation	A locked cable gate on private land restricts access to this 230-acre parcel.
Magalloway Plt.	A locked metal gate on private land restricts access to this 1,000-acre parcel.
Cupsuptic	A staffed gate leased by the Kennebago Camp Owners' Association on private lands limits access to the 62-acre public lot in Stetsontown Twp. on Kennebago Lake. A public access agreement with the Association allows up to three vehicles at any time to access the lake via the public lot and to park at the Grants Camps lease site on the lot.
Davis Township	A locked gate on the private road north of the Dallas Plantation Public Lot was added in 2010, restricting the use of the Loon Lake Road out of Rangeley to access the Bureau's Davis Twp. Lot on Kennebago Lake. However, this lot can still be accessed via Bridge Road off Route 16 in Langtown Mill (Lang Twp).
Seboeis Plantation	An external gate was installed on a private road by the camp owners' association after repeated vandalism of private camps, limiting vehicular access to the 1,136-acre Seboeis Plantation lot.

INTERNAL GATES

The Bureau maintains 32 internal gates for safety purposes, to protect sensitive areas, to limit vehicle traffic on service roads, or to control certain recreational uses. None of the barriers restrict foot traffic; many are left open during the winter season to allow safe passage by snowmobiles. Some temporary gates are used for security during harvest operations. In FY 22, a gate was installed at the Rocky Lake Unit to prevent vehicles from using an old entrance to the unit (recently relocated) while allowing ATV passage.

LAND OPEN TO HUNTING

Public Law, Chapter 564 of the 123rd Legislature, amending 12 MRSA §1847 sub-§ 4, requires that lands open to hunting on Public Reserved Lands include at least the acreage open to hunting on January 1, 2008. Since 2008, apart from trail buffers required by law, no land has been removed from the acreage available for hunting. The law also requires the Bureau to report annually to the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee the acreage of Public Reserved Lands available for hunting and any changes from the January 1, 2008 levels.

- On January 1, 2008, there were 587,184 acres of Public Reserved Lands, of which **586,505 acres** were available for hunting (excluding three small game preserves).
- In FY 22, 625,451 **acres (over 99%** of Public Reserved Lands) were open for hunting.

XIII. LAND TRANSACTIONS

The Bureau continues to see increased interest by landowners and partner conservation groups in conservation easement and land acquisitions that represent a range of values, including recreation, ecological values, and working forests.

FISCAL YEAR 2022 TRANSACTIONS

Acquisitions

- **Scopan** – In August 2021, the Bureau acquired 4.6 acres adjacent to the Scopan Unit. Acquisition of this parcel provides direct access to a public road and allows the Bureau to build its own access road, securing permanent public access for the future.
- **Roque Bluffs State Park** – In October 2021, the Bureau purchased 50-acre Pond Cove Island to be added to this coastal park. The island is roughly a third of a mile from the mainland and features nearly two miles of winding shoreline, gentle stone, and cobble beaches suitable for landing kayaks and small boats.
- **Madison Branch Rail Trail** – In November 2021, the Bureau purchased parcels in six towns in southern Somerset and northern Kennebec County, totaling 357 acres, from Pan Am Railways to develop a 32-mile multi-use rail trail. The new trail will connect to the snowmobile Interconnected Trail System (ITS) and the ATV trail system and will also be available for non-motorized recreation.
- **Kennebec Highlands** – In April 2022, the Bureau acquired two parcels totaling 813 acres, to be added to the Bureau's Kennebec Highlands Public Land. These parcels are available to the public for various recreational uses and will be managed for wildlife habitat, timber, and wild blueberry production. Funding for the purchase was obtained from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Land for Maine's Future Program.
- **Viles Arboretum** – In June 2022, the Bureau was gifted the remaining 50% common undivided interest in a 15.5-acre parcel within the arboretum in Augusta. The State acquired the other 50% C/U interest in 1980, during the development of the arboretum on the parcel and surrounding lands, formerly part of the Augusta Mental Health Institute and are now designated nonreserved lands and leased to the Arboretum.

Dispositions

The following sales of Bureau property approved by the legislature were completed in FY 22.

- **Richardson Lakes** – One camplot lease parcel in Adamstown Twp., totaling about 3.6 acres, was sold to the leaseholder (three adjacent lots were sold in FY 21).
- **Augusta Surplus parcel** – An 8.9-acre parcel on the Augusta surplus property (nonreserved land, formerly part of the Augusta Mental Health Institute) was sold to the Maine Veterans' Home, whose care facility (now closed and replaced with a new facility elsewhere) occupies the parcel.

FISCAL YEAR 2023 and PROJECTS IN DEVELOPMENT

- **East Grand Weston Project** – The Bureau has secured funding from the US Forest Legacy Program and the Land for Maine's Future Program to purchase a working forest conservation easement on 4,327 acres on the shores of East Grand Lake. The project includes 21.5 miles

of lake frontage, public access for a wide range of recreational opportunities, and the best view on Maine's Million Dollar View Scenic Byway. It is expected to close in FY 23.

- **Quill Hill to Perham Stream** – The Bureau has been awarded \$8,045,000 from the Forest Legacy Program to support the acquisition of 6,500 acres (Perham Stream parcel) adjacent to the Bureau's Mt. Abraham Ecological Reserve and a working forest conservation easement on the 7,028-acre Quill Hill property. The project will include a 5,000-acre ecological reserve. It will protect critical habitat, provide direct benefits to Maine's forest products and outdoor recreation economies, and enhance public access to unique recreational amenities, including securing public access to the Quill Hill Scenic Lookout. These projects are expected to close in FY 23.
- **Chadbourne Tree Farm** – The Bureau has been awarded \$10,655,000 from the Forest Legacy Program and \$995,000 from the Land for Maine's Future Program to acquire a working forest conservation easement on 10,675 acres in the Bethel region. The property contains a trail network connecting multiple regional recreation hubs, over four miles of river access, and 27 miles of wild brook trout streams. It contributes to Maine's \$8.5 billion forest economy.
- **FY 23 Forest Legacy Projects** – Congress approved \$3,665,000 in FY 23 Forest Legacy funding for the Bureau's acquisition of a working forest conservation easement on 13,830 acres in Rangeley Plantation along the National Scenic Byway and connecting Rangeley Lake State Park and the Bureau's Four Ponds Unit. The project will conserve 31 miles of wild brook trout habitat, secure public access for fishing, hunting, and outdoor recreation, and contribute to Maine's forest products economy.
- **Little Concord Pond** – In December of 2022, the Bureau acquired 175 acres adjacent to Little Concord Pond State Park in Woodstock. The property includes one mile of wild brook trout habitat and significant wetlands and provides a key landscape-scale connection between the park and nearby conservation easement lands. The parcel was designated as Public Reserved Lands.
- **Square Lake Public Reserved Land** – The Bureau is working to acquire 4,145 acres on Square Lake and Cross Lake in Aroostook County. This property includes over 5.5 miles of undeveloped lake shoreline, 3 miles of wild brook trout habitat, and 1,763 acres of wetlands in the Cross Lake Fens Focus Area. BPL will manage the property for multiple uses, including recreation, timber, and resource protection. The Bureau is developing plans for a new trailered boat launch on Square Lake. The Bureau was awarded \$890,000 from the Land for Maine's Future Program and \$750,000 from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for this acquisition. This project is expected to close in early FY 24.
- **Orbeton Keystones** – The Bureau is working in partnership with The Nature Conservancy and Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust to conserve a collection of parcels in the High Peaks region with frontage on Orbeton and Perham Streams. These lands provide a critical ecological connection between other conserved lands, provide important cold-water habitat for brook trout and other species, and support the potential for Maine forests to play a vital role in mitigating impacts from climate change. Five cascading waterfalls that are privately owned but long-cherished by visitors are the highlight of the project's scenic and recreational values. The Bureau will acquire several parcels in FY 23 and hopes to close on others in FY 24.

XIV. SUBMERGED LANDS

The State of Maine holds title to submerged lands in all coastal waters and Great Ponds. In coastal waters, submerged lands extend from the mean low-tide line seaward to the three-mile territorial limit of state waters. Maine's Submerged Lands are managed under the Public Trust Doctrine to protect the public trust rights of fishing, waterfowl hunting, navigation, and recreation. The Submerged Lands Program plays an important role in maintaining a balance among competing uses of submerged lands and resolving conflicts between public trust rights and the demand for private and commercial uses of these lands.

Project and Permit Applications

- The Program received 246 applications for new Coastal Development Projects.
 - 71 were determined to be exempt from the leasing requirements under the program rules
 - 35 new lease and easement documents were prepared and completed
- Staff processed 15 applications for new leases and easements for existing structures that were found to be in non-compliance after a 2015 inventory.
- Staff completed 120 requests for conveyance renewals, amendments, and transfers.
- One new application to recover sunken logs from submerged public lands was received in FY 22. However, the applicant withdrew his application.

Water Quality Monitoring. In 2009, the legislature authorized funding from the Submerged Lands leasing program to be provided to support water quality monitoring efforts at the Department of Marine Resources shellfish program. Funding of \$80,000 per year has been extended through FY 22.

Tidal Energy Pilot Project. In 2012, the first tidal energy pilot project was installed on the seafloor at Cobscook Bay with testing and environmental monitoring continuing through FY 22. Power generated by the facility connects to the grid by a submarine cable to the shore at Lubec. Eighty percent of the lease revenue is directed to the Renewable Ocean Energy Trust Fund and is utilized by the Department of Marine Resources for fisheries research and mitigation efforts associated with offshore energy projects.

XV. SHORE AND HARBOR MANAGEMENT FUND

In 1991, the Legislature created the Shore and Harbor Management Fund in anticipation that annual revenues from the Submerged Lands Program (SLP) would exceed operating costs. These funds could then be used to support shore and harbor management activities and improve public access. In FY 22, funds were provided to the Bureau and other state agencies for:

- Public boat ramp renovation at Toddy Pond, Orland;
- Maine DMR design of a new hand-carry boat launch in Thomaston;
- Maine DIFW relocation of a public boat ramp facility on Annabessacook Lake in Winthrop; and
- Maine Island Trail Association support of ongoing recreation management of State-owned coastal islands.

FY 22 was the sixth year of SLP's Harbor Management and Access (HMA) grant program. SLP awarded HMA grants to three municipalities, including Belfast, Jonesport, and Saco. All the projects funded construction activities at new or existing water access facilities in coastal waters.

XVI. COASTAL ISLAND PROGRAM

Maine's Coastal Island Registry was created in 1973 by the 106th Legislature to clarify title to 3,166 coastal islands by establishing and registering ownership. Most island owners have registered their islands. The Program continues to receive periodic requests to register an island or make changes in existing registrations (address or ownership changes). There are also many requests for ownership information from persons interested in Maine islands.

The Maine Island Trail is a water trail extending along the entire coast of Maine and includes both publicly and privately owned islands. The Bureau continues its partnership with the Maine Island Trail Association in managing and overseeing the State-owned islands on the Trail. In addition, the Bureau provides a brochure, "Your Islands and Parks on the Coast," showing the location of approximately 40 State-owned islands suitable for recreational use and explaining the Bureau's visiting, camping, and resource protection policies.

XVII. ADMINISTRATION

LEASES/LICENSES

Camplot Leases

The Bureau administers a Camplot Leasing Program for 285 residential camplots and nine commercial sporting camps and campgrounds across the state. In FY 22, the Bureau was in the fourth year of a five-year term (2018-2022) for camplot leases as well as most commercial sporting camps and campgrounds. In 2021, one camplot lease in the Richardson Lakes Unit, Oxford County, was removed from inventory. The lessees bought their lease parcel as approved by the legislature (Resolve 2013, c. 56, § 4, as amended by Public Law 2017, Ch. 362, § 10, and 12 M.R.S. § 1851). The camplot program also administers seven tent site rental agreements.

Other Leases and Licenses

The Bureau administers 55 leases and licenses on Public Lands for a variety of purposes. These leases and licenses have terms that range from 5 to 25 years. Twenty-five include annual lease payment provisions, and the remainder involves no payment or payment of a one-time administrative fee to the Bureau. Leases and Licenses in place in FY 22 included:

18 Utility leases	6 Warden camp leases
7 Agricultural licenses	1 University camp lease
5 Telecommunication facility leases	3 Sugarbush licenses
1 Dam lease	13 Miscellaneous leases
1 Boat access license	

No-rent leases include State lands leased to communities; recreation associations such as the Capital Area Recreation Association (CARA) ball fields in Augusta; nonprofit environmental

organizations such as the Viles Arboretum in Augusta; municipal utilities for waterlines and pumping stations, and the Maine Warden Service for staff housing in remote locations. All no-rent leases either allow public access or provide a public service.

XVIII. INCOME AND EXPENDITURES ACCOUNTING – FISCAL YEAR 2022

OVERVIEW

The Public Lands Program (Lands Program) has several different accounts established for specific purposes with statutory restrictions on their use. The Program is funded entirely from dedicated funds with no General Fund support. **The revised statutes require that financial summaries be prepared on a fiscal year basis instead of the previous calendar year summaries.** The figures presented below may not compare to those reported in previous years on a calendar year basis.

Public Reserved Lands Management Account (014.01A.Z239.22)

This account is restricted to uses related to the management of Public Reserved Lands status, including the original public lots, land acquired through trading Public Reserved Lands, and other lands designated as Public Reserved Lands. Sources of income to this account include revenue generated from the harvest of forest products, camplot leases, and other special leases on the Reserved Lands, grants, endowments, or dedicated funds as well as interest on the account balance. In FY 22, the Lands Program conducted timber harvests that yielded 116,372 cords.

Income for FY 22 was \$17,660,730, with expenditures of \$16,408,381 for net revenue of \$1,252,349. Because the Land Program's largest source of revenue is timber, income fluctuates from year to year in response to the amount of wood harvested and the economic conditions that affect timber markets. The cash balance accumulates when revenues exceed expenses. The cash balance as of June 30, 2022, was \$5,402,938.

Income from the Public Reserved Lands Account supports most of the administrative, planning, timber, transportation, recreation, and wildlife management activities on the land base. The revenue described above supports the significant seasonal fluctuation in cash balances needed for contracted logging services and the Bureau's overall ability to support the Lands management program.

The income or expenditure figures above include the portion of monies received from camplot leases and timber sales that are shared with towns and plantations pursuant to 12 MRSA §1854. Based on the income received in the calendar year 2021 (payable in 2022), the Lands Program revenue sharing amounts total \$163,631.45, paid to thirteen towns and plantations.

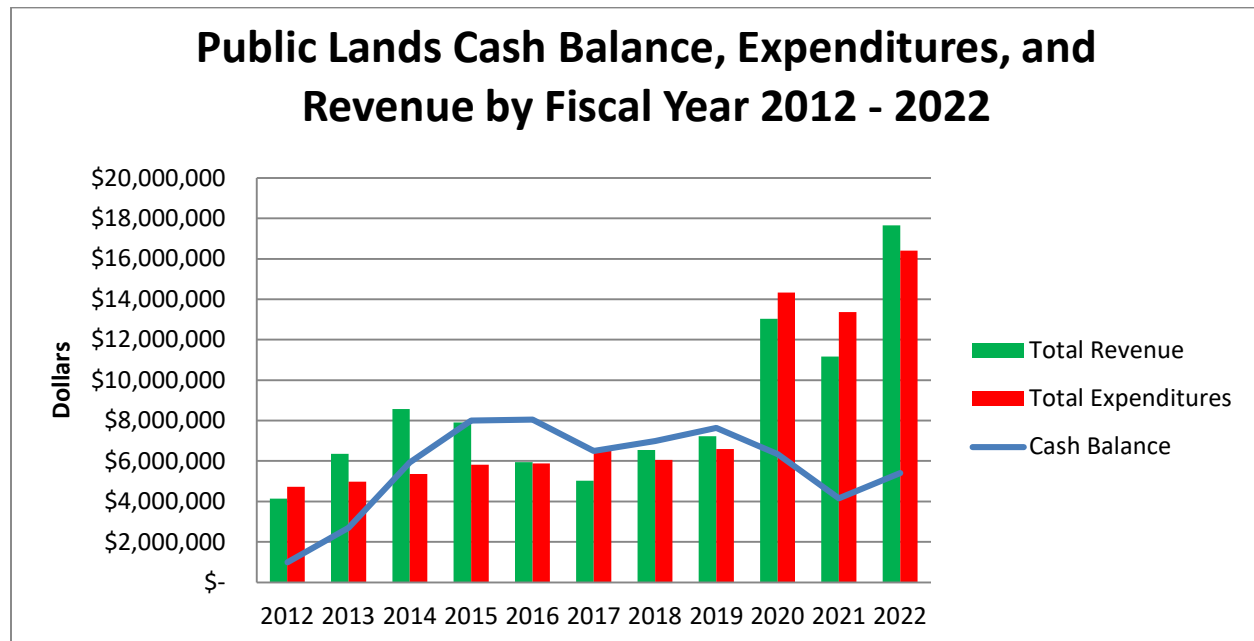
Income		Expenses	
Earnings on Investments	\$26,958	Personal Services	\$3,690,467
Rent of Lands**(1)	\$1,142,126	All Other	\$11,317,995
Grants from State Agencies (2)	\$3,670	Capital	\$684,750
Camp lot Leases	\$426,851		
Registration Fees (3)	\$10,138		
Sale of Stumpage *	\$17,080,912		
Sale of Forest Products *(4)	\$360		
Recovered Cost (5)	\$39,060		
Recreational Use of Parks	\$18,022		
Sale of Timber Gravel Grass	\$300		
DICAP**	(\$788,776)	STACAP	\$715,169
Trust & Private Contributions	\$250		
Late Fees & Misc. income	\$8,887		
Svc. Fees Charged by Other Depts. (6)	(\$155,061)		
Legislative Transfer of Revenue	(\$167,428)		
Adj. To Balance Forward	\$14,461		
Total Income	\$17,660,730	Total Expenses	\$16,408,381

* Represents the major components of the Division's income stream and is shown as the gross income before logging and trucking costs are paid; those costs are included as expenses as a portion of "All Other."

** Consistent with state accounting practices, DICAP is shown as a "revenue debit," although it is actually an expenditure.

- (1) Rent of lands is primarily the payment for Long Falls Dam on Flagstaff Lake as well as smaller amounts for sugarbush and other commercial leases.
- (2) Grants from State Agencies include dedicated funds at the Maine Community Foundation as well as Federal grants from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Recreational Trails Program.
- (3) Registration Fees are bear-baiting site permits.
- (4) Sale of forest products is from fir tip sales.
- (5) Recovered costs are road tolls collected for logging truck use of Bureau roads by neighboring timberland owners.
- (6) Service fees to other Departments are payments made to the Maine Natural Areas Program for the Public Lands Ecologist and for invasive species management.

The chart below shows the total revenue, the total expenditures, and the cash balance for the Public Reserved Lands Management Account for the period 2012 – 2022



* Beginning in FY 20, accounting practices were updated to show Contract Logging Services (CLS) as expenses rather than as a reduction to revenue. Thus, there are no major changes in revenue or expenses from 2019 to 2020 -- just in accounting practices.

Public Nonreserved Lands Management Account (014.01A.Z239.23)

This account is used for the management of lands not in the Public Reserved Lands System. These Nonreserved Public Lands include coastal islands and institutional lands (those lands considered surplus by other State agencies) assigned to the Bureau’s Lands Program for natural resource management. Income is primarily derived from agricultural leases, though timber sale occasionally contributes when timber harvests are completed on Nonreserved Lands. Income for FY 22 was \$2,189 with zero expenditures. The ending cash balance was \$5,669. The Public Lands program plans its expenditures for each fiscal year based on the level of income it projects to receive from its various revenue sources. If projected income is insufficient, the Program determines whether the balance in its contingency fund is sufficient to carry it through until additional revenues are received. If both revenue projections and contingency funds are insufficient, then the Program postpones planned expenditures until revenue returns to an adequate level.

Income		Expenses	
Rent of Lands	\$2,189	All Other (not including STACAP)	\$0
		Capital	\$0
DICAP**	(\$0)	STACAP	\$0
Total Income	\$2,189		\$0

** Consistent with state accounting practices, DICAP is shown as a “revenue debit,” although it is actually an expenditure.

Land Acquisition Fund (014.01A.Z239.24)

Funds from this account are restricted by statute and the constitution to the acquisition of conservation lands and acquisition-related costs. These funds cannot be used for the operation or maintenance of existing land; therefore, expenditures do not occur regularly. Income that accrues as a result of sales, trades, or interest is carried forward until needed for future acquisitions. Income for FY 22 was \$332,031 against expenditures of \$486,688. The balance at the end of the fiscal year was \$1,148,818.

Income this year was derived from the sale of land and interest earned on the account balance. Expenses included various acquisition-related costs such as surveys and appraisals. In all cases, funds were expended in conjunction with other funding sources outside of the Bureau. Funds from this account are restricted by constitutional amendment (Article IX, Section 23) to the acquisition of lands with significant conservation and recreation value in the same county where the sale of lands generating the funds took place.

Income		Expenses	
Earnings on Investments	\$6,839	All Other	\$29,519
Sale of Land	\$330,754	Capital	\$455,755
DICAP**	(\$5,562)	STACAP	\$1,424
Total Income	\$332,031	Total Expenses	\$486,688

** Consistent with state accounting practices, DICAP is shown as a “revenue debit,” although it is actually an expenditure.

Z23924 – Public Reserved Lands Acquisition Account Balances*		
Account	County	Balance at FYE 2022
2400	Acquisition	\$71,815.27
2402	Aroostook County	-\$8,664.82
2403	Cumberland County	\$14,110.73
2404	Franklin County	-\$525.60
2406	Kennebec County	-\$262,707.28
2409	Oxford County	\$1,230,398.72
2410	Penobscot County	-\$122.08
2411	Piscataquis County	-\$11,487.65
2418	Wilderness Society Grant	\$3,140.03
2419	Kendall Grant	\$2,698.19
Z239	Land Management & Planning	\$110,162.40
		\$1,148,817.91

*Accounts will be balanced through account reconciliation in FY 23.

Nonreserved Land Acquisition Fund (014.01A.Z239.37)

This account was established to receive revenue from the sale of Public Nonreserved Lands. Expenses for FY 22 were \$4,415 with -\$632 in revenue. The balance at the end of the fiscal year was \$289,858. Funds from this account are restricted by constitutional amendment (Article IX, Section 23) to the acquisition of lands having significant conservation and recreation value in the same county in which the sale of lands generating the funds took place.

Income		Expenses	
Reg Transfer Unallocated Investments	\$0	All Other (not including STACAP)	\$4,212
DICAP**	(\$632)	STACAP	\$203
Total Income	\$(632)	Total Expenses	\$4,415

** Consistent with state accounting practices, DICAP is shown as a “revenue debit,” although it is actually an expenditure.

Z23937 – Public NonReserved Acquisition Account Balances		
Account	County	Balance at FYE 2022
3703	Cumberland County	\$230,255.32
3753	Kennebec County	\$59,602.42
		\$289,857.74

Forest Legacy Fund (013.01A.Z239.35)

This account was established to receive grant revenue from the federal USDA Forest Service Forest Legacy Program for the purchase of valuable land and conservation easements. Land acquisition projects are reviewed and approved at the national level. The Bureau also receives annual grants that support the program administration and pre-acquisition costs for the Forest Legacy land purchases. Land for Maine’s Future funds are typically used as a match for these Forest Legacy grants to purchase land and interests in land. Total expenses in FY 22 were \$29,109. Total Forest Legacy revenues in FY 22 were \$24,343. At the end of FY 22, the account had a balance of -\$7,138. This negative balance resulted from an expense hitting the account before the federal cash draw and was cleared in FY 23.

Income		Expenses	
Federal Grants	\$53,030	Personal Services	\$22,254
Adj. to Bal. Fwd.	\$(27,503)	All Other	\$5,515
DICAP**	(\$1,184)	STACAP	\$1,340
Total Income	\$24,343	Total Expenses	\$29,109

** Consistent with state accounting practices, DICAP is shown as a “revenue debit,” although it is actually an expenditure.

XIX. FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2024

OVERVIEW

Pursuant to Title 12 M.R.S.A., Sections 1839 and 1853, the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry must review allocations for the Bureau’s dedicated funds and revenue accounts pertaining to Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands for the upcoming fiscal year and submit a written report to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs by March 15th. To assist in the preparation of that report, the Bureau is submitting information regarding Bureau income, expenditures, and management of the following five dedicated accounts:

- **Public Reserved Lands Management Fund**
- **Public Lands Management Fund (Nonreserved Public Lands)**
- **Public Reserved Lands Acquisition Fund**
- **Public Nonreserved Lands Acquisition Fund**
- **Forest Legacy Fund**

The FY 24 account summaries of Bureau initiatives are generated from the State of Maine Budget and Financial Management System (BFMS). These accounts derive revenue from the sale of forest products, lease fees, interest on cash balances, and land sales. Aside from limited technical support funding, these accounts' programs receive no support from the State's General Fund. The dedicated revenues in these accounts, supplemented by grants and other outside sources of revenue, must cover all operating expenses. The Bureau mainly plans its expenditures for each fiscal year based on the income it projects to receive from its various revenue sources. If projected income is insufficient, the Bureau determines whether the balance in its contingency fund is sufficient to carry it through until additional revenues are received. If both revenue projections and contingency funds are insufficient, the Bureau postpones planned expenditures until revenue returns to an adequate level. The Bureau has established internal financial management procedures to accomplish this process and reviews budgetary matters monthly and quarterly.

The Bureau continues to manage the State-owned Public Reserved and Nonreserved Lands (the “Public Lands Program”) to produce timber on a sustained yield basis and within established harvest levels to generate revenue to support resource protection, wildlife, and recreation programs. Adding new lands and management responsibilities increases demand on the Bureau. Revenue in the Public Reserved Lands Management Fund is used to meet these additional responsibilities. Below are the FY 24 budget allocations proposed for each of the five dedicated accounts within the Public Lands Program. These allocations represent the limits within which the Bureau must operate.

1. Public Reserved Lands Management Fund Account # 014.01A.Z23922

Income		Expenses	
Earnings on Investments	\$28,000	Personal Services	\$4,202,850
Grants from State Agencies	\$140,000	All Other (not including STACAP)	\$13,420,931
Rent of Lands*	\$1,240,000		
Camp lot Leases*	\$437,000		
Recreational Use of Lands	\$18,020		

Misc. Rents & Leases	\$14,000		
Registration Fees	\$22,000		
Sale of Stumpage*	\$17,081,000		
Sale of Forest Products	\$660		
Misc. Income	\$2,096,919		
Contrib. from Private Sources	\$2,800		
Recovered Cost	\$40,000		
Reg Transfer Unallocated	(\$123,523)		
DICAP**	(\$2,628,188)	STACAP	\$744,907
Total Income	\$18,368,688	Total Expenses	\$18,368,688

* Represents the major components of the Division's income stream.

** Consistent with state accounting practices, DICAP is shown as a "revenue debit," although it is actually an expenditure.

As of June 30, 2022, the Public Lands Program had an account balance of \$5,402,938 in the Public Reserved Lands Management Fund. Because most of the Program's timber harvesting takes place during the winter, there is a significant seasonal fluctuation in income. The fund enables the Program to operate during the first half of the fiscal year when income is low and expenses are relatively constant. It also serves as a buffer to cover operating costs when expenses exceed revenues.

Timber markets in Maine can be highly variable from year to year. Over the last decade, several years with strong timber markets served to build a solid operating fund that acts as a contingency for periods of down timber markets, such as are expected to continue into FY 24. This fund supports contract logging services, personnel services, vehicle operations, information technology, management costs for road maintenance, forest inventory, monitoring systems, and expanded recreational facilities. Conservation easement monitoring costs are provided via dedicated endowment funds tied to specific easements.

The Public Lands Program anticipates harvesting 120,000 cords of wood, which will generate approximately \$6 million in net revenue in FY 24.^[1] However, significant changes in markets, timber prices, and contractor availability can cause fluctuation in this projection. Current FY 23 market conditions include strong demand and pricing for many species of wood and products, especially the traditional mainstays of BPL harvests: softwood logs and hardwood pulp. However, logging and trucking capacity are severely constrained due to labor shortages in the workforce and the fact that many loggers left the business during the pandemic amid financial challenges. The Bureau will continue to plan expenditures with caution based on quarterly updates of projected income. Fortunately, FY 22 saw encouraging results, with a return to a stable cash balance for the first time since the pandemic began. Looking forward, the Bureau is now taking a comprehensive look at the extensive logging and public use road system, which has increasingly suffered catastrophic failures in recent years due to an unusually high occurrence of extreme rain events each year. An estimate to upgrade the entire road system to a climate-resilient condition will be calculated during FY 23. Recreation management remains another area where infrastructure needs (trails, parking, privies, signage, etc.) and available recreation staff outweigh available resources.

[1] Net stumpage revenue after harvest and transportation; does not include personnel or other costs.

New initiatives below are dependent on budget approval by the legislature.

- **Requested New Initiative** (Pending review and approval)

This initiative provides funding to increase the weeks of one seasonal Park Ranger position from 26 weeks to 52 weeks and provides funding for associated All Other costs.

Dedicated Revenue	Income	Requested for FY 24	Expenses
Misc. Income	\$34,359	Personal Services	\$28,826
DICAP	(\$4,324)	STACAP	\$1,209
Total Income	\$30,035	Total Expenses	\$30,035

- **Requested New Initiative** (Pending review and approval)

This initiative provides funding for capital construction materials, capital improvements to bridges and roads, and other improvements to recreational trails and sites used by the public.

Dedicated Revenue	Income	Requested for FY 24	Expenses
Sale of Stumpage	\$3,000,000	Capital	\$3,000,000
Total Income	\$3,000,000	Total Expenses	\$3,000,000

- **Requested New Initiative** (Pending review and approval)

This initiative provides funding for Central Fleet Management Services provided by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services.

Dedicated Revenue	Income	Requested for FY 24	Expenses
Priv Cont For Other Purpose	\$140,665	All Other	\$118,015
DICAP	(\$17,702)	STACAP	\$4,948
Total Income	\$122,963	Total Expenses	\$122,963

2. Public Nonreserved Lands Management Fund Account # 014.01A.Z239.23

The account had a balance of \$5,669 at the end of FY 22, which is used as a contingency fund to cover expenses that occur between the relatively small and infrequent timber harvests on these lands.

Income		Expenses	
Rent of Lands	\$3,000	All Other (not including STACAP)	\$32,761
Misc. Income	\$33,464	Capital	
DICAP**	(\$2,942)	STACAP	\$761
Total Income	\$33,522	Total Expenses	\$33,522

** Consistent with state accounting practices, DICAP is shown as a “revenue debit,” although it is actually an expenditure.

3. Public Reserved Lands Acquisition Fund Account # 014.01A.Z239.24

By statute, the money in this account is used only for purposes related to the acquisition of interest in land. Lands purchased with the funds from this account have Public Reserved Land status. These funds are necessary to acquire rights-of-ways, in-holdings, conservation easements, and additions to the existing land base. As in most years, it is difficult to predict the timing, income, and expenditures involved in potential land transactions. This budget allows the Bureau, if the opportunity arises, to acquire land or other interests within the available allocation. The “All Other” expenses are used to cover the cost of legal assistance for title searches, drafting deeds, appraisals, and related items. At the end of FY 22, this account had a balance of \$1,148,818. Funds generated from sales of properties may only be used for land acquisitions in the same county as required by the Constitution. This limits the Bureau’s ability to use this fund to pursue acquisition projects in counties without funds.

Income		Expenses	
Earnings on Investments	\$7,000	All Other (not including STACAP)	\$201,672
Sale of Land	\$330,000	Capital	\$0
DICAP**	(\$30,157)	STACAP	\$7,803
Total Income	\$306,843	Total Expenses	\$209,475

** Consistent with state accounting practices, DICAP is shown as a “revenue debit,” although it is actually an expenditure.

4. Public Nonreserved Lands Acquisition Fund Account # 014.01A.Z239.37

The money in this account is used only for purposes related to the acquisition of interest in Nonreserved land. Lands purchased with the funds from this account have Public Nonreserved Land status. These funds are necessary to acquire rights-of-ways, in-holdings, conservation easements, and additions to the existing land base. As in most years, it is difficult to predict the timing, income, and expenditures involved in potential land transactions. This budget allows the Bureau, if the opportunity arises, to acquire land or other interests within the available allocation. The “All Other” expenses are used to cover the cost of legal assistance for title searches, drafting deeds, appraisals, and related items. At the end of FY 22, this account had a balance of \$289,858.

Income		Expenses	
Sale of Land	\$73,000	All Other (not including STACAP)	\$60,542
DICAP**	(\$9,053)	STACAP	\$2,342
Total Income	\$63,947	Total Expenses	\$62,884

** Consistent with state accounting practices, DICAP is shown as a “revenue debit,” although it is actually an expenditure.

5. Forest Legacy Fund # 013.01A.Z239.35

This account is used for USDA Forest Service Forest Legacy Program grant expenses related to the acquisition of nationally approved Forest Legacy land parcels and any associated pre-acquisition costs. The figures above represent the All Other pre-acquisition budgets. For land acquisitions, financial orders are sent to the DACF Commissioner and Governor for signatures and to establish the capital needed for the land purchase. Land for Maine’s Future funds are

typically used as a match for these Forest Legacy grants to purchase land. At the end of FY 22, the account had a balance of -\$7,138. This negative balance resulted from an expense hitting the account before the federal cash draw and was cleared in FY 23.

Income		Expenses	
		Personal Services	
Federal Grants	\$42,964	All Other (not including STACAP)	\$36,046
		Capital	0
DICAP**	(\$5,407)	STACAP	\$1,511
Total Income	\$37,557	Total Expenses	\$37,557

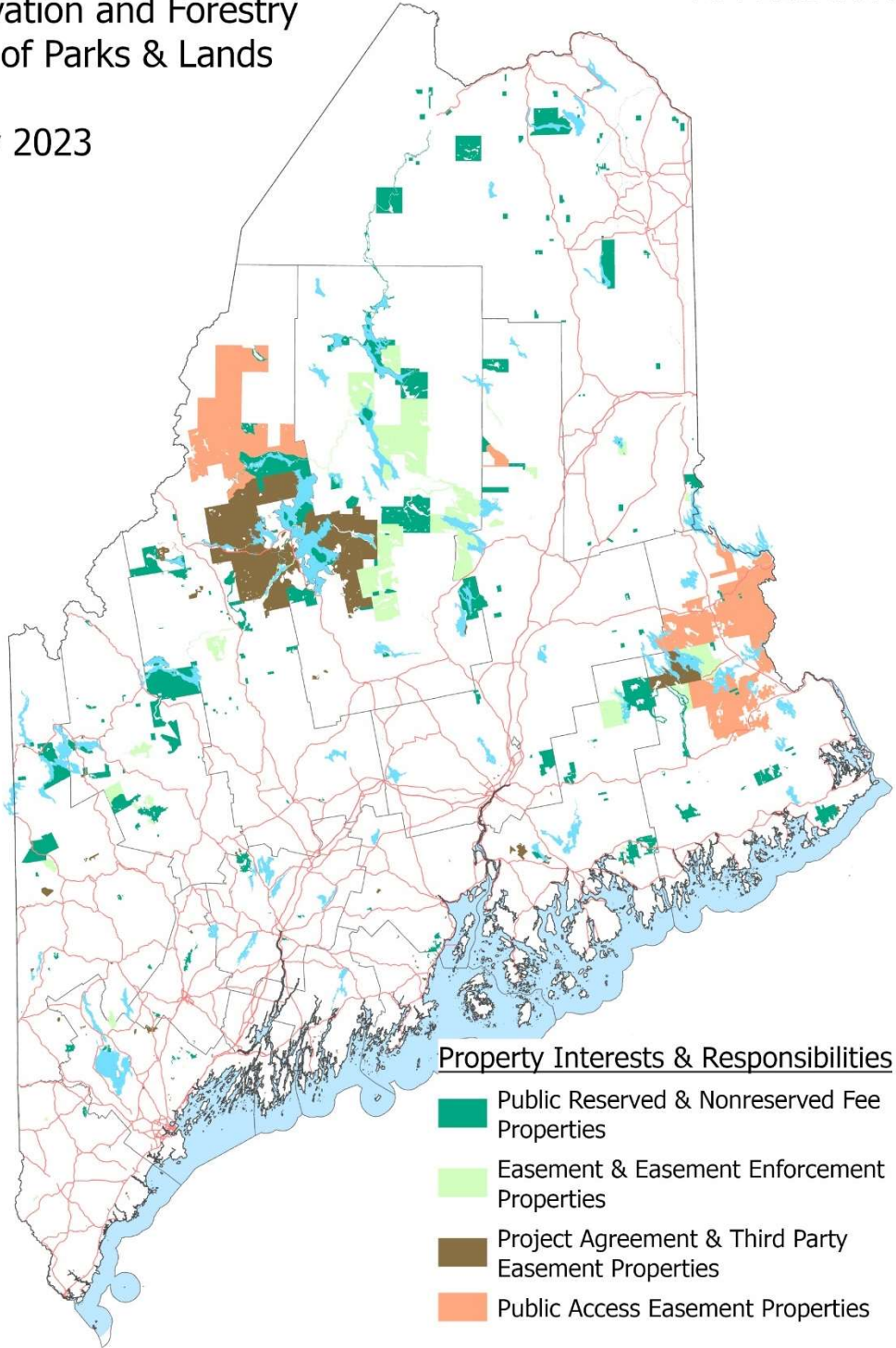
** Consistent with state accounting practices, DICAP is shown as a “revenue debit,” although it is actually an expenditure.

- **Requested New Initiative** (Pending review and approval)

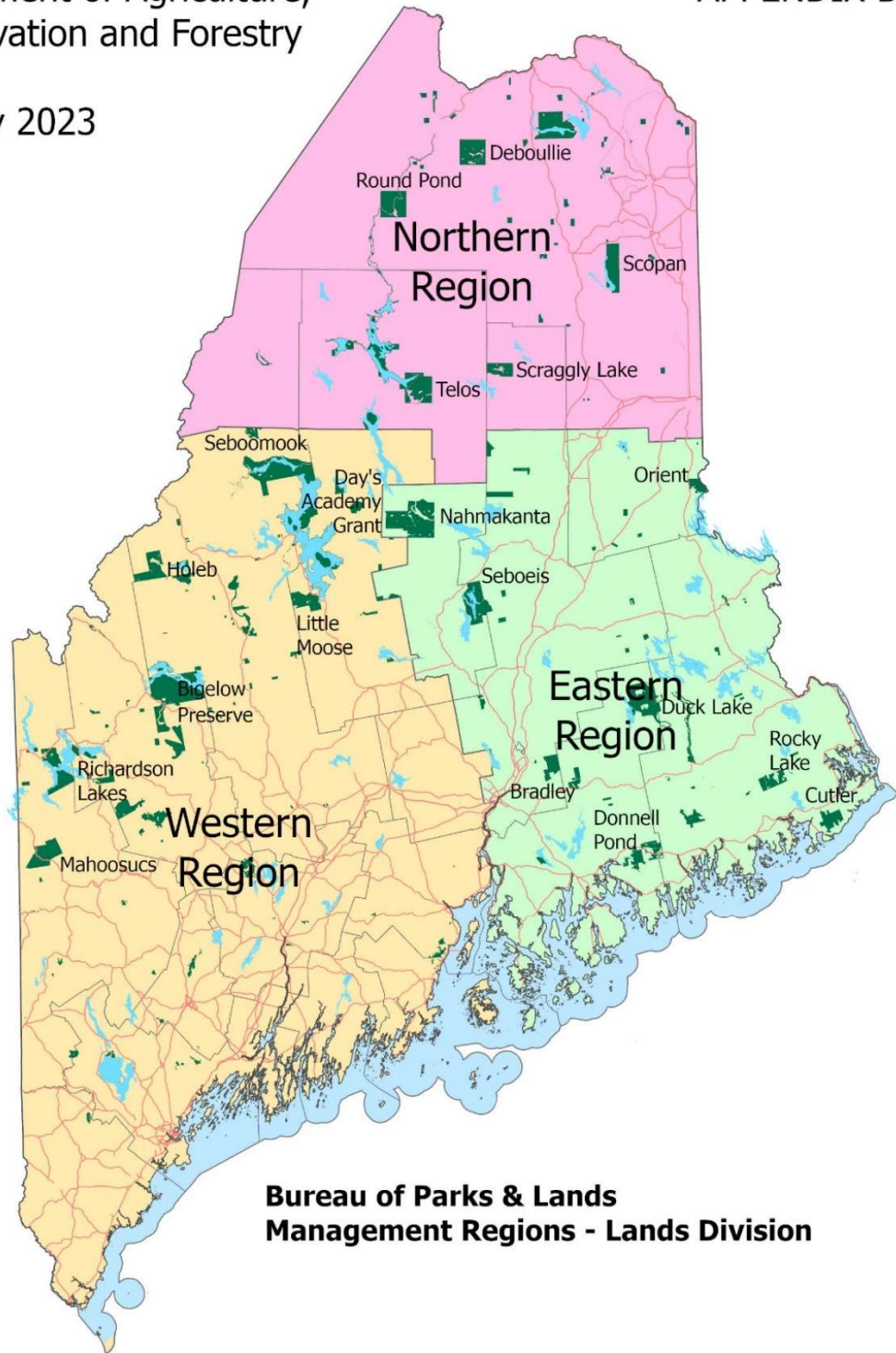
This initiative provides funding for travel and legal costs associated with the Forest Legacy Program grant.

Revenue	Income	Requested for FY 24	Expenses
Fed Grants for Other Purp	\$59,993	All Other	\$50,332
DICAP	(\$7,550)	STACAP	\$2,111
Total Income	\$52,443	Total Expenses	\$52,443

January 2023



January 2023



**Bureau of Parks & Lands
Management Regions - Lands Division**

PUBLIC RESERVED AND NONRESERVED LAND MANAGEMENT UNITS, BY PLAN REGION (2)

Key: shaded units = >1,500 acres [NRL] = Nonreserved land *** = managed by others

	Unit Name	acres		Unit Name	acres
WEST	Seboomook Region		WEST	Tumbledown/Mt. Blue Region	
	Seboomook and Canada Falls	41,508		Tumbledown	10,389
	St. John Ponds	3,917		Bald Mountain Lot - Perkins	167
	Big Spencer Mountain	4,242		Kennebec Highlands	
	Baker Lake	1,650		Kennebec Highlands	6,889
	Upper Kennebec Region			Individual Units	
	Holeb	23,713		Pineland [NRL]	881
	Cold Stream Forest	8,152		Dodge Point	495
	Sandy Bay	2,721			
	Bald Mountain Lot	1,650		Other NonReserved Lands	
	Bradstreet Twp. South Lot	178	Hebron Lot	448	
	Caratunk North, South, East Lots	1,611	Augusta Surplus ***	328	
	Coburn Mountain Lot	300	Yankee Woodlot ***	238	
	Dennistown Plantation Lot	1,024	Baxter Memorial Forest	161	
	Highland Plantation East Lot	210	Northport/Durham State Forest	108	
	Johnson Mountain Lot	521	Kennebunk Forest	77	
	Kennebec Gorge	1,483	Steven's Island ***	31	
	Moose River North & South Lots	312	Hallowell ***	8	
	Moxie Gore Lot	450	Lousy Island	2	
	Pleasant Ridge Plantation Lot	173			
	The Forks Plantation North & South Lots	1,068			
	West Forks Plt. NE, NW, C, SW Lots	1,189			
	Flagstaff Region				
	Flagstaff Lake/Bigelow Preserve	43,591			
	Crocker Mountain	12,046			
	Mt. Abraham	6,301			
	Chain of Ponds	982			
	Coplin Plt. Central Lot	562			
	Coplin Plt. West Lot	398			
	Freeman Twp. Lot [NRL]	122			
	Highland Plt. Double Lot	362			
	Highland Plt Southeast Lot	121			
Highland Plt. West Lot	408				
King and Bartlett Twp. Lot	143				
Redington Twp. Lot	1,020				
Western Mountains Region					
Mahoosuc	31,764				
Richardson	18,480				
Four Ponds	6,018				
Bald Mountain – Oquossoc	1,873				
Dallas Plt. North & South Lots	439				
Davis Lot	960				
Lincoln Plantation West & East Lots	919				
Magalloway Plantation Lot	1,044				
Rangeley Plantation Lot	469				
Stetsontown Lot	41				
Township E (Smalls Falls) Lot	370				

Note: Acreage figures are approximate and are based on management plan data; they may differ slightly from survey or GIS data.

APPENDIX D

MANAGEMENT PLAN STATUS (MAJOR UNITS)

	Management Unit	Status	Plan Region
<i>Northern Region</i>			
1	Chamberlain	Adopted August 2021	St. John Uplands
2	Deboullie	Adopted June 2007	Northern Aroostook
3	Eagle Lake	Adopted June 2007	Northern Aroostook
4	Gero Is./Chesuncook	Adopted August 2021	St. John Uplands
5	Round Pond	Adopted August 2021	St. John Uplands
6	Salmon Brook Lake Bog	Adopted June 2007	Northern Aroostook
7	Scraggly Lake	Adopted August 2009	Aroostook Hills
8	Scopan	Adopted August 2009	Aroostook Hills
9	Telos	Adopted August 2021	St. John Uplands
<i>Eastern Region</i>			
10	Amherst Forest	Adopted Dec. 2010	Eastern Interior
11	Bradley	Adopted July 2009	Eastern Interior
12	Bradford/LaGrange	Adopted May 2014	Central Penobscot
13	Cutler Coast	Adopted March 2007	Downeast
14	Donnell Pond	Adopted March 2007	Downeast
15	Duck Lake	Adopted July 2009	Eastern Interior
16	East Turner Mtn	Adopted May 2014	Central Penobscot
17	Great Heath	Adopted March 2007	Downeast
18	Machias River	Adopted July 2009	Downeast
19	Millinocket Forest	Adopted May 2014	Central Penobscot
20	Nahmakanta	Adopted May 2014	Central Penobscot
21	Orient	Adopted August 2021	Eastern Interior
22	Rocky Lake	Adopted March 2007	Downeast
23	Seboeis	Adopted May 2014	Central Penobscot
24	Wassataquoik	Adopted May 2014	Central Penobscot
<i>Western Region</i>			
25	Bald Mountain	Adopted Jan. 2011	Western Mountains
26	Bigelow Preserve/Flagstaff	Adopted June 2007	Flagstaff
27	Big Spencer Mtn	Adopted March 2007	Seboomook
28	Chain of Ponds	Adopted June 2007	Flagstaff
29	Cold Stream Forest	Adopted June 2019	Upper Kennebec
30	Crocker Mountain	Adopted April 2015	Flagstaff
31	Days Academy	Adopted Feb. 2017	Moosehead
32	Four Ponds	Adopted Jan. 2011	Western Mountains
33	Holeb	Adopted June 2019	Upper Kennebec
34	Kennebec Highlands	Adopted Oct. 2011	Kennebec Highlands
35	Little Moose	Adopted Feb. 2017	Moosehead
36	Mahoosuc	Adopted June 2007	Western Mountains
37	Mount Abraham	Adopted Jan. 2011	Flagstaff
38	Pineland	Adopted Jan. 2011	Bradbury SP/Pineland P.L.
39	Richardson	Adopted Jan. 2011	Western Mountains
40	Sandy Bay	Adopted June 2019	Upper Kennebec
41	Seboomook	Adopted March 2007	Seboomook
42	St. John Ponds	Adopted March 2007	Seboomook
43	Sugar Island	Adopted Feb. 2017	Moosehead
44	Tumbledown	Adopted Feb. 2022	Tumbledown/Mt. Blue

APPENDIX E

Designation History of Ecological Reserves

Original Ecological Reserves Designated in 2001 and Modifications Adopted in 2007, '11, '18, '20, '21		
Name	Original 2001 Acres*	Changes adopted in 2007 and after
1. Bigelow ER	10,540	
2. Chamberlain ER	2,890	+612
3. Cutler Coast ER	5,216	+5
4. Deboullie ER	7,253	-1,203*
5. Donnell Pond/Spring River Lake ER	5,950	+60*
6. Duck Lake ER	3,870	
7. Gero Island ER	3,175	
8. Great Heath ER	5,681	+739*
9. Mahosucs ER	9,974	
10. Nahmakanta ER	11,082	
11. Rocky Lake ER	1,516	
12. Salmon Brook Lake ER	1,053	-50*, +26
13. Wassataquoik ER	775	+1,325
Original Total Acres	68,975	
Adjusted Total Acres	70,489	

* These figures have been revised to delete areas of open water (e.g., ponds), which are not included in BPL fee ownership, and to reflect various boundary and other corrections.

Ecological Reserves Designated as a Result of Acquisition Conditions	
Name	Acres
1. Big Spencer ER (2007)	4,242
2. Mount Abraham ER (2007)	5,186
3. St. John Ponds ER (2007)	3,917
4. Fourth & Fifth Machias Lakes ER (2009)*	2,780
5. Number 5 Bog ER (2009)	4,809
6. Crocker Mountain ER (2013)	4,000
Total	24,934

* Added to Duck Lake Ecological Reserve

Current Total Ecological Reserve Acres	
Category	Acres
Original Ecological Reserves, as modified	70,489
Ecological Reserves Designated as a Result of Acquisition Conditions	24,934
Total	95,423